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A HISTORY OF NEWPORT PAGNELL.

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PAGNELL
Church
The Old Hospital
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by the AUTHOR

A HISTORY

OF

NEWPORT PAGNELL.

BY

FREDK. WM. BULL,

AUTHOR OF "HISTORY OF KETTERING."

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

KETTERING:

W. E. & J. GOSS, PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS

1900.

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PREFACE.

THE casual visitor to the market town of Newport Pagnell, situate in the Three Hundreds of Newport and in the Northern part of the County of Buckingham, will perhaps not see anything which will specially impress upon him the fact that it is a place with historic associations.

But to those who know something of the Metropolis of North Bucks, as the town is sometimes called, or are interested in the years that are gone, the aspect is different.

To such the names of Tickford Street and Priory Street are suggestions of the old time Priory; St. John's Street reminds them of the existence of the Hospital by the bridge, formerly dedicated to Saints John the Baptist and Evangelist, now called Queen Ann's; the Castle Meadow recalls the memories of feudal lords and their strongholds; the numerous Inns can almost be claimed as evidence of the large old time coaching importance of the town; the mounds which not so very many years since were to be seen in the still open common, Bury Field, were forcible reminders of the fortifications of the Civil War; the rivers even are indicative of the need for bridges and suggest that those aids to civilization have a history of their own; while the stately Church, with its beautiful churchyard stretching down to the Lovat, assists them in picturing for themselves the old time town.

It is with the hope, therefore, of interesting those who are thus receptive that this volume has been compiled.

During a period of more than twelve years the collection of material has been gradually made from public, local, and private records, and although it is not by any means claimed that the result is exhaustive, very much fresh information, some inaccessible till lately, has come to light, and many items already made public by the Histories of Mr. Joseph Staines, Mr. Joseph Simpson, and others, have been amplified.

That the book is free from errors of transcription, translation, or compilation, is too much to expect, but every care has been taken to verify the information given, and as far as possible the authorities and records relied on have been quoted.

It would have been impossible to have obtained the mass of information to hand if it had not been for the extreme courtesy and willingness with which correspondents and others have accorded access to, or furnished extracts from, the various records in their charge, and although it is almost invidious to name those who have thus so materially assisted, it is only right that thanks should be publicly accorded to H. Gough, Esq., Sandcroft, Redhill, for the loan of many valuable manuscripts and for extracts forwarded from his topographical collections; to the Rev. C. M. Ottley, Vicar of Newport, for much information as to the Church and its registers, the Charities, and other matters; to the Newport Urban District Council for access to the local records under their control; to F. Allfrey, Esq., of Newport, for particulars with reference to the Charities and Church plate; to William Ayers, Esq., for his article on the lace trade; and to Messrs. W. B and W. R. Bull, of Newport, for valuable manorial and other information.

FREDK. WM. BULL.

RISDENE, KETTERING,
26th November, 1900.

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ADDENDUM.

Page 203. In August, 1832, the Independent Meeting Sunday School Anniversary Hymns bear the imprint " Newport Pagnell: Printed by G. Williams, Bookseller, etc.," while a booklet of a similar nature for November, 1833, bears the imprint "Newport: Printed by E. Crick, John Street. MDCCCXXXIII."

HISTORY OF NEWPORT PAGNELL.

PART I.

THE TOWN AND MANOR.

CHAPTER I.

THE TOWN.

WHETHER Newport Pagnell—or rather Newport, as it was originally called—owes its origin to the decay of a town or village called Bonestou, some two or three miles to the north of it, as legend says, it is now impossible to state. The word Newport[1] means, however, "New town," so that it is at any rate within the bounds of possibility that it was so named in distinction to some former town which either existed on its site or in its vicinity.

There is no distinct note to be found which connects the Danes with Newport, but as it was probably in existence in 921, when those marauders came from Northampton and Leicester to attack Towcester, and, being unsuccessful in their aims, went off ravaging towards Aylesbury, it is quite likely that they put in an appearance at Newport itself.

Probably, too, in 1010, they paid Newport a visit, when, among other counties, they overran Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire.[2]

In connection with speculation as to the remote antiquity of Newport, the recent discovery of an ancient burial-ground, whilst digging for gravel on the Tickford Estate, and the finding there of remains assigned to such differing periods as the Neolithic and Saxon, is interesting.[3]

1 The addition of the word Paynell or Pagnell is due to the fact that subsequent owners of the Manor were so named.

2 Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. Benjamin Thorpe. London, 1861.

3 Bucks Standard, Dec., 1897, and 24th Feb., 1900.

In 1897 the first discovery was made, and a skull sent by Mr. Alfred Bullard to Professor Windle, of Mason's College, Birmingham, was stated to be of the long narrow type possessed by a race of the Neolithic period, while flints sent at the same time—one a well-worked arrow-head, triangular tanged and double barbed—were also pronounced by the same gentleman to be clearly Neolithic.

In 1899 the investigations were continued, and several skeletons of, it is presumed, Saxons, together with some double-edged iron swords and spear heads, found, the swords being at the sides of the skeletons. With one skeleton—apparently that of a female—was found a bronze brooch, a bronze forehead band with heart-shaped engraved ornaments on each side, an ornamented bronze band or clip, an iron dagger, and armlets of coloured glass beads and of a curious make of clay enamelled.

A broken amber-coloured glass goblet was also discovered, and animal bones and charred wood were found with the other bones.

The bodies were apparently, says Mr. Bullard, placed in circles, an inner and outer, the feet all pointing to the centre.

Mr. Bullard thinks the place was a burial-ground in Saxon times. Perhaps as a result of further investigation the question may some day be raised as to whether the spot is not the burial-place of the victims of the Danish inroads.

The Domesday Survey mention of the town is given in the chapter on Manorial History. There, too, will be found some account of the various owners of Newport.

Apart, then, from matters concerning Manorial History, the first incident to be noticed is perhaps the statement that John was in the town on Monday, 2 February, 1204, and proceeded to Northampton next day. On 27 September, 1213, too, he came to Newport from Northampton en route for London. He also paid a visit on 21 December, 1215, on his way from Dunstable to Northampton.

In 1240, and again in 1285, the Justices Itinerant sat at Newport, while the Assizes were held there in 1241, 1249, and several times in the reigns of Edward III., Richard II., and other monarchs.

In June, 1224, Henry III., then in his eighteenth year, visited the town on his way from Northampton to besiege Bedford and crush Fulk de Breaute. On his arrival at the Castle, which then

existed at Newport Pagnell, he found that the Royal store of wines had been left behind, and a mandate was forthwith directed to the Sheriff of Northamptonshire requiring him to forward, without the least delay, the four casks which had been left in his custody at Northampton Castle.[1]

On 24 July, 1280, Edward I. passed through Newport on his way from Leighton to Northampton, and on 1 October, 1313, William Earl of Ross, with his escort, on his way from London to join the King in Scotland, was there one night. An account of the Earl's expenses for that day is given in the Scottish Antiquary (v. 159), as follows:—Bread, 8d.; wine, 8d.; beer, 15d.; butcher meat, 4d. (?); poultry, 5½d.; young pigeons, 5½d.; 100 eggs, 4½d.; herrings, 1½d.; eels and pickerels, 20d.; musterd for store, 4d.; vergus, 2d.; gingibo, 3d.; hay for 24 horses, 12d.; 1 qr. 4 bush. oats, 3s; lard for the crasset, 1½d.; hiring beds, 2d.

One John Marcio, of Newport, was, in 1308, apparently to some extent in Royal favour, as he was King's Clerk and Chaplain, and had granted to him, 3 June 1, Edward II., the Chaplaincy of Dover Castle.

On 20 March, 24 Edward III., the King, being in need of men to assist in his wars, issued an order which included a requisition to the Bailiffs of Newport to provide two armed men and send them to Sandwich.[2]

In 28 Edward III., the King, anxious that his subjects should not be defrauded, issued an order as to the price at which flagons of wine might be sold. The price differed somewhat in seaport and inland towns, and apparently the town of Newport Pagnell was notified that a flagon might be sold there at 6d., while at seaports and towns within a given distance therefrom the price was fixed at 5d.[3]

The question as to whether there was a Castle at Newport Pagnell or not is interesting.

Leland in his "Itinerary," of about the middle of the sixteenth century, writes: "There appere certen Dikis at Newport Panelle in Bokinghamshire by the Chirche as there had bene a Castelle," while in another part of the same work, referring to the Paganel family, he says: "Tho the Paynelles were Lordes of the Castel of

1 Archæological Journal, iii., 317. Close Rolls given as authority for statement.
2 Rymer's Fœdera, Vol. 3, part I., p. 193.
3 Ibid., p. 292, quoting Close Roll, 28 Edward III., m.l.d.

Newport Painel in Buckinghamshire, yet they had a great mynde to lye at Boutheby wher they had a praty Stone House withyn a Mote."

Camden too in his "Britannia," written about the same time, has the following reference to the town:—"The Ouse runs by Newport Pagnell so called from the lord of it Fulk Paganel from whom it descended to the Barons Somerie of Dudley who had their castle here."

The references to a Castle in the town are unfortunately very meagre for, with the exception of the statements above given, the reference to Henry III. coming to Newport Castle, and a reference to a curtilage at the southern bridge of Tykeford, near the curtilage of Richard Terri and abutting towards the Castle Mead, in a deed[1] of about the time of Henry III., no particulars as to the existence of such a building can be found. No Castle appears to be mentioned in early extents of the Manor or other documents relating to the manorial ownership, and if one existed, as on the whole seems likely, it was probably dismantled at an early date.

It is stated that on 5th October, 1570, at Newport Pagnell, during the violent tempest that happened throughout the kingdom, there was a remarkable inundation from a spring at the back of the Saracen's Head Inn; at the same time two houses were thrown down by the shock, and a man and woman crushed to death by their fall.[2]

Speaking of the Ouse, Michael Drayton, in his "Polly Olbion" (1622), says:—

> From Brackley breaking forth, through soiles most heauenly sweet,
> By Buckingham makes on, and crossing Watling Street,
> Shee with the lesser Ouze at Newport doth twin,
> Which from proud Chiltern neere, comes eas'ly ambling in
> The Brooke which on her Banke doth boast that earth alone:
> (Which noted) of this Ile, converteth wood to stone.
> That little Aspleyes earth we anciently instile,
> Mongst sundry other things, A wonder of the Ile:
> Of which the lesser Ouze oft boasteth in her way,
> As shee her selfe with Flowers doth gorgeously array.

In July, 1631,[3] the Justices of the Peace for Bucks seem to have had to make a return as to corn, and accordingly certified that in

1 Ancient Deeds, Record Office, A. 182.

2 Gent. Mag. Liby. English Topography, Bucks, 246.

3 State Papers. Domestic Series.

the Three Hundreds of Newport Pagnell there were 1704 quarters of wheat, and that the price was then lately much abated.

The Civil War broke out in 1642, and the important part which Newport played in it is related elsewhere.

In 1659 some stir was occasioned by the dispersal of the Presbyterian Royalists in Cheshire, and the arrest of Sir George Booth, their leader (who desired to go to London), at Newport.

Mr. John Gibbs seems to have had a part in the matter, for in "Whitelock's Memorials of English Affairs," under date 24 August 1659, is the following:—

"An Account given to the House by Mr. Gibbs, Minister of Newport Pagnell in Bucks, of the apprehending of Sir George Booth, whither he came with four servants, and behind one of them himself rode in the Habit of a Woman; but acting that part not well, he was suspected and, being apprehended and examined, he confessed himself to be Sir George Booth, and was sent up to London, and by the Parliament committed to the Tower. He made applications to many of the Parliament and Council by his Friends for favour."

A further reference to this matter occurs in the State papers[1] where, in a certain examination of John Carter of Newport Pannel on 7 Jan. 1663, Carter said he went "to ye parish Church and never had any congregational meeting, but once in his house. Never had any hande in private collecting of moneys. Sr. G. Booth was taken in his house."

Sir George was soon released, however, and in 1661 was created Baron Delamere.

In 1666, the Annus Mirabilis, the plague visited Newport, and the resultant mortality may be judged from the following statement of burials recorded in the Parish Registers:—

In 1665 (new style) there were buried		37
In 1666 January to May	35	
June	102	
July	257	
August	205	
September	67	
October	16	
November and December	15	
	Total	697

1 State Papers, Domestic Series, Charles II. 1664. Vol. 90. No. 41.

In 1667 and 1668 (new style) the number of burials was 45 per year.

The plague was at its height at the end of July, for on the 29th of that month nine persons were buried, on the 30th 19, and on the 31st 12.

One, Ralph Hope, in a letter written to one, Williamson, dated Coventrie, August 20th, 1666, says: "Blessed bee god wee continue in a very healthfull condicion here save y^t^ ye small pox is some^wt^ breife but wonderfull favorable. Nor any place in ye whole County haueing been soe much as suspected all this sumer of any malignant distemper but in North-hamptonshire ye sickness rages extreamely, Especially at Peterburrough, Owndle & Newport Panell in wch latter, tho a considerable markett towne, is not left aboue betwixt 7 & 800 people. One come from Cambridg this day affirmes y^t^ ye sickness is soe sore there y^t^ tis feared most of their harvest will bee vtterly spoyled for want of workfolks to In it, tho they offer 7s. a day to labourers."[1]

As may readily be supposed the plague complicated business matters extremely, and there are extant particulars[2] of a point which arose as to who was the heir-at-law of Samuel Coningham of Newport, who, about two years before his death made a will which he left in the hands of Anthony Potter, his brother-in-law, and spoke of revoking it could he during the "great visitation" have sent for it.

Depositions in the matter were taken at Newport Pagnell on 26 March, 1668, 20 Charles II., before Marke Slingsby and Roger Chapman, Gentlemen, and one of the witnesses made the following statement: "This Deponent sayth Samuel Cuningham sayd that he had made a former will but then sayd I doe now vtterly renounce itt And Disowne it. And Saith that the said Samuel Could not Conveniently send [to his "brother Potter"] because the Plague was then very violent in the Towne soe that noe Person was Suffered to goe out of the Towne. And that hee dyed when very many of the Inhabitants of the Towne was visited of the Plague or Pestilence and did revoke and renounce his former will, the friday before he fell sick, at the Serracens head in Newport Pagnell. And there was then and

1 State Papers. Domestic Series. Charles II., Vol. 168, No. 57.

2 Exchequer Depositions by Commission. Easter, 20 Charles II., Bucks No. 2.

there Present besides himself Arthur Johnson the elder and William Pinge."

One other note there is; for, according to the Mansel M.S., on a cracked freestone under the lowest window on the North side of the North Chapel of Great Linford Church is an inscription commencing with a Greek phrase as to the mortality of mankind and continuing:—"Here lyeth the Bodies of Richard and Martha Peter, who as they were here joyned in Marriage, Anno 1636, so it pleased God to lay them together in this Bed of Mould, Anno 1666, both dying in this parish, She on the 14, He on the 16 of Sept: being removed from Newport by Reason of a Raging Plague. Matt. xix. vi."

On 8 June 1668, Samuel Pepys, the famous diary writer, visited the town on a journey from London via Bedford. The reference runs "8th. Monday. . . . Pleasant country to Bedford; where while they stay, I rode through the town; and a good country town; and there drinking 1s. We on to Newport; and there I and W. Hewer [his clerk] to the church, and there give the boy 1s. So to Buckingham, a good old town, . . . At night to Newport Pagnell; and there a good pleasant country town, but few people in it. A very fair and a like cathedral church; and I saw the leads, and a vault that goes far underground; the town, and so most of this country, well watered. Lay here well, and rose next day by four o'clock; few people in the town; and so away. Reckoning for supper 19s. 6d.; poor 6d. Mischance to the coach but no time lost."

In 1675, as well as in 1644, George Fox was, as mentioned elsewhere, in Newport.

In 1676 there was a religious census of the province of Canterbury. A copy of the returns is preserved in the Salt Library, Stafford. The inquiry applied only to inhabitants above 16 years of age, so that it is considered that in order to get an idea of the population of a place the figures must be doubled.

The Newport Pagnell return is:—

Conformists	905
Papists	1
Nonconformists	126

The total of these figures is 1032, which if doubled would be 2064.

In 1685 a remarkable electioneering incident, in which Newport

Pagnell played a part, occurred, and the following is the account of it given by Lord Macaulay in his History of England:—

"Soon after the accession of James II, in the spring of 1685, the country was agitated by the tumult of a General Election. No election had ever taken place under circumstances so favourable to the Court. Hundreds of thousands whom the Popish Plot had scared into Whiggism had been scared back by the Rye House Plot into Toryism. Yet the Whigs though suffering the just punishment of their errors, though defeated, disheartened, and disorganised, did not yield without an effort. They were still numerous among the traders and artisans of the towns and among the yeomanry and peasantry of the open country. In some districts, in Dorsetshire for example, and in Somersetshire, they were the great majority of the population. In the remodelled boroughs they could do nothing; but in every county where they had a chance they struggled desperately. At the election for Northamptonshire the common people were so violent in their hostility to the Court candidate that a body of troops was drawn out in the market place of the county town and was ordered to load with ball.

"The history of the contest for Buckinghamshire is still more remarkable. The whig candidate, Thomas Wharton, eldest son of Philip Lord Wharton, was a man distinguished alike by dexterity and by audacity, and destined to play a conspicuous, though not always a respectable part in the politics of several reigns. He had been one of those members of the House of Commons who had carried up the Exclusion Bill to the Bar of the Lords. The Court was therefore bent on throwing him out by fair or foul means. The Lord Chief Justice Jeffreys himself came down into Buckinghamshire, for the purpose of assisting a gentleman named Hacket, who stood on the high Tory interest. A stratagem was devised which, it was thought, could not fail of success. It was given out that the polling would take place at Ailesbury; and Wharton, whose skill in all the arts of electioneering was unrivalled, made his arrangements on that supposition. At a moment's warning the Sheriff adjourned the poll to Newport Pagnell. Wharton and his friends hurried thither, and found that Hacket, who was in the secret, had already secured every inn and lodging. The Whig freeholders were compelled to tie their horses to the hedges, and to sleep under the open sky in the

meadows which surround the little town. It was with the greatest difficulty that refreshments could be provided at such notice for so large a number of men and beasts, though Wharton, who was utterly regardless of money when his ambition and party spirit were aroused, disbursed fifteen hundred pounds in one day, an immense outlay for those times. Injustice seems, however, to have animated the courage of the stout-hearted yeomen of Bucks, the sons of the constituents of John Hampden. Not only was Wharton at the head of the poll, but he was able to spare his second votes to a man of moderate opinion, and to throw out the Chief Justice's candidate.

"The general result of the elections exceeded, however, the most sanguine expectation of the Court, James saying, that with the exception of about 40 members, the House of Commons was just such as he should himself have named. And this House of Commons it was in his power, as the law then stood, to keep to the end of his reign."

In 1712 Newport was assessed to the land tax at £642 3s. 6d., and in 1744 paid £643 19s. 6d.

The Newport lock-up and stocks were referred to at a Court held on 1st October 1723, the constables being presented "for not having Locks to ye Cage doors and the Stocks"

A pound on the Green is referred to in one of the Court Rolls, and another pound on the London Road was in existence till quite recently.

The presentments of the Jury at these Courts were of some real importance, and tended to abate all manner of nuisances and infringements of manorial and common rights.

The officials appointed included such personages as constables, bellmen, leather sealers, flesh tasters, bread and butter weighers, and ale tasters, and their duties are sufficiently indicated by their designations.

In 1745 William Duke of Cumberland and his army, whilst on their march to Scotland, passed a night at Newport.

The soldiers were quartered in the town, the Church being used as barracks, and the artillery and baggage deposited in Bury field.

The Lathbury bridge at that time was secured by two portals, both in Lathbury parish, and was only open to passengers in time of flood (as happened then) upon payment of toll, and the key was kept by Mrs. Jane Symes, the proprietress of the bridge.

In the morning the Duke sent a messenger for the key, as his army could not pass the river. Mrs. Symes, however, being a Jacobite, not only refused to send the key, but ordered her servants to state that she was in London and had taken it with her.

The Duke was by no means deceived, and, enraged at the insult, declared that if any man, woman, or child, would say that the inhabitants of Lathbury were Papists, he would plant his guns against it and blow it to atoms.

No declaration to that effect being made, however, after a delay of over an hour, he ordered his soldiers to break open the gates, and as they passed along the road they cut to pieces the hedges and corn out of revenge for the delay.

Before Lathbury bridge was built in 1740 by the Rev. William Symes, of stone brought out of Cambridgeshire, there was a ferry across the water.[1]

The following table of tolls from 1750 to 1757 is copied from a register kept by Henry Uthwatt, Esq. :—

		£	s.	d.
Passengers and Carriages that pay by the year—1750	...	38	17	9
1751	...	56	3	8
1752	...	34	2	0
1753	...	30	5	0
1754	...	16	0	6
1755	...	29	15	9
1756	...	52	18	9
To March 21, 1757	..	27	16	0
		£285	19	5

Speaking of this bridge, Bray, in his "Tour" of 1783 (p. 374) says :—" At the entrance of Newport a causeway has been thrown up and a bridge built, in a place which used to be impassable in floods, except by a bridge belonging to a private person, who extorted what he pleased from the distressed traveller. He generally insisted on a crown for a coach or waggon before he would turn the key, and there was no refusal, for the road to Stony Stratford was not then made. At last the Commissioners

1 Mansell MSS.

of the turnpike road roused themselves, and determined to buy it for the use of the public, or to build another. The proprietor sold it with great reluctance. A horse path is now always open, and a carriage way when there is a flood."

The popular tradition has it that Cannon Corner was so called in consequence of an old cannon having been left there by the Duke of Cumberland on his march. The fact is, however, that the gun was probably a remnant of the Civil War, as by her will dated 12th May, 1740,[1] Tabitha Leverett, of Newport Pagnell, widow and ironmonger, bequeathed to her son Aquila "one shilling in good and lawful money of England and no more but the iron back that is in the chimney I now live in and the iron gunn that stands in the street to defend the corner of the house for standards for ever."

The house, latterly used as a blacksmith's shop, was pulled down in April, 1844, and the old gun was then sold to one Samuel Clare, a boatman, of Newport, for old metal.

Under the head of Memorabilia, in the Newport Church Registers, occurs the following:—

"That on Saturday Jan. 6th. 1776 between 5 and 6 in the evening it began to snow, and continued to do so till Munday about the same Time in the evening: On Tuesday morning it rained from 2 till 4 o'clock, then began to freeze very hard and which continued with snow till Fryday when it snow'd the whole Day and greatest part of the evening, froze very hard and all the Day after viz Jan. 13 during this Time the wind was North East and very brisk and which occasioned such Drifts of Snow on the Roads that it was with great difficulty and Danger that people could any way pass from one Town to another, no stage Coaches or other carriages through Newport the whole Time. On Saturday Jan. 13 in the evening it began to snow again and continued till Sunday morning about eleven o'clock, when the Sun shone, from thence till Saturday the 20th when the Stage Coaches began to travel and the Frost set in hard, the Sky clear and now and then a little snow till Thursday evening Feb. 1st, when it began to thaw and the Snow and Ice were chiefly gone Feb. 5th, and which was very extraordinary without a flood."

At this time great quantities of thread lace were made in the town and neighbourhood and "a rich cheese sold on the spot at

1 Staines' History of Newport Pagnell, p. 153.

18d. a pound and another sort something like Cottenhan at 6d."[1]

The election of a Town Crier and Watchman is referred to in the "Northampton Mercury" of 5th April, 1784. "The Candidates were Mr. Pearce, Mr. King and Mr. Blunt; and the former was declared duly elected by a very great majority. Mr. Pearce's Success is attributed to his very strong Attachment to the present Administration."

There was an election for the County the same month, and party feeling no doubt was then running high.

The first public reference to the vaccination question at Newport is perhaps that in which "The Northampton Mercury" recorded the death, at the end of February 1786, of "Mr. Thomas Smith, Breeches Maker of Newport Pagnell; who for many years past practised Inoculation, and of the great Numbers he had the care of never lost a single patient. He never undertook the inoculating any person in Newport, unless the Disorder was already in the Parish; and what added still more to his Credit, all that he did for the poor was gratis."

In December, 1785, a special Show of Horses, Cows, Sheep, and other Cattle at Newport Pagnell, on 22nd February and 29th August next ensuing, was advertised.

On 29th July, 1787, a Sunday School was opened and "near 200 Children from 6 to 15 years of Age attended and made a very decent Appearance. The Rev. Mr. Davis, Curate of the Parish, preached an excellent Sermon on the Occasion from Isaiah lvi. 2."

In the course of various necessary excavations in the Eastern portion of High Street, about 1889, a number of old wooden water pipes were unearthed, and there is no reason to doubt that they formed part of the system for water supply which is referred to in the following advertisement, which appeared in the "Northampton Mercury" for 29th December, 1787, namely:—

"Bucks. To be sold a desirable freehold estate, situate at Newport Pagnell; comprising a Water Corn Mill, with three water wheels, gear and stones, a dwelling-house, stable and buildings, garden, meadow, and ozier bed, containing together, by estimation, 3 acres and an half. Also a new-erected water engine worked by one of the mill wheels, conveying the water by elm pipes into a reservoir of 20 feet by 10, and 3-and-a-half deep, cased with brick and lined with lead, on oak pillars, standing on

1 Bray's Tour, 1783.

an eminence in the town of Newport Pagnell aforesaid, from which the houses in North Street, High Street, Bridge Street, and Marsh End are supplied with water to the number of 102, the inhabitants of which paying very easy rents for the same. The whole of the premises with the rents and profits of the water, are rented by Joseph Warner tenant at will, at the yearly rent of £75, but capable of very considerable improvements. For particulars enquire of Joshua Peart, Esquire, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London; or Mr. Hurst, Attorney at law, Newport Pagnell aforesaid."

Later on, at the beginning of this century, possibly 1820, but the book bears no date, Cooke in his Topographical Description of Bucks says: "The inhabitants of Newport Pagnell are well supplied with water from the Ouse by means of an hydraulic engine." There is also a further reference to a water supply in the Mansell MSS. where mention is made of the barracks erected in the Market Place by Sir Samuel Luke, part of which before they were pulled down were used for an hydraulic machine, which once supplied the people with water. Possibly the reservoir stood in the Market Place.

At a Manorial Court held in 1789, it was presented that Robert Willeatt had been guilty of a nuisance by laying pipes to carry water, and by suffering the same to be out of repair to the great detriment of the inhabitants, and he was amerced in the sum of £5 if he did not abate the nuisance by repairing the pipes within six months.

Notwithstanding the order there was still trouble, and at a Court, held in 1791, it was presented that Robert Willeatt had frequently broken up the highways and causeways, for the purpose of amending the water pipes laid for the conveyance of water from his mill to different parts of the borough, and that he had not sufficiently amended the ground broken up by him, but suffered the same to remain in a very bad state, which was a nuisance to the inhabitants, and therefore he was amerced for the same £5.

Under date 10th November, 1794, the Gentleman's Magazine states that "some heavy rains fell in many parts of the kingdom; the environs of Newport Pagnell presented an almost entire sheet of water."

On 18th November, 1795, an earthquake was felt in various

places from York to Bristol; and in a small degree at Newport. The old Neptune Public House (now demolished) was particularly agitated: the house bells were all set a jingling and the family much alarmed.

The town does not seem to have favourably impressed Mrs. Siddons, for writing in May, 1796, she says: "Here I am, sitting close, in a little dark room in a little wretched Inn, in a little poking village called Newport Pagnell. I am on my way to Manchester . . ."[1]

In 1798, according to the return of the Posse Comitatus made to the Sheriff (and among the Stowe MS. 804), there were in Newport, amongst other persons, between 16 and 60—

2 Clergymen—John Roberts, W. Davis.
2 Gentlemen—Jos. Hatton, Jo. Warner.
3 Attornies. Several Licensed teachers i.e. dissenting ministers.

4 Surgeons.	1 Apprentice (included ?).	1 Quack Doctor.
7 Victuallers.	3 Schoolmasters.	5 Glovemakers.
17 Cordwainers.	1 Stationer—Jo. Wakefield.	2 Lacedealers.
1 Printer—Benjamin Leverett.		(Maurice Smith and another).

The population in 1801 was 2048, while in 1803 the money raised by Parish rates (including the Hamlet of Caldecott) was £1354 11s. 7d. at 4s. 6d. in the pound. The market was then on Saturday, and fairs on 22nd February, 22nd April, 22nd June, 29th August, 22nd October, and 22nd December.

A glimpse of the method of old time travelling is afforded by the following announcement taken from the "Northampton Mercury" of 10th October, 1743:—

"On Monday the 24th. of this Instant October, at Three o'clock in the Morning will set out (and continue so to do) from the White Lyon in Northampton, a good and Neat Ge-hoe Coach, with six Able Horses (which will with Ease and Pleasure carry eight Persons) and will be at the Ram Inn in Smithfield, London, every Tuesday early in the Afternoon: returns on Wednesday about ten o'clock, and will be in Northampton on Friday afternoon. Every passenger to London paying 7s. and from London to Northampton 6s. being allowed fourteen Pounds weight and for all above as well as for other goods as usual. Perform'd (if God permit) by Robert Herbert.

1 Life of Mrs. Siddons, 1839, p. 271.

Note. Passengers being ready at Newport Pagnell by ten o'clock may be taken in there. Note also, plate, money, writings, or jewels will not be answered for unless notice be given thereof."

Sixty-one years later, the same paper in June, 1804, has the following:—

"Northampton and Newport Pagnell. Elegant Light Coach. Upon an entire new principle. For four insides and three outsides. Now offered to the Public by Messrs. Willan and Levi, proprietors of the old Northampton Coach, Commenced on Monday the 25th. inst. from Northampton, and from London on Tuesday the 26th: to start precisely at seven in the morning, and will continue every other Day (till another of the Kind can be provided) as follows—

"From Mr. Levi's office, Gold Street, Northampton, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and from the Bull and Mouth Inn, Bull and Mouth Street London on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at the same hour.

"To have one coachman only throughout the Journey and to stop at no place on the road, except for the purpose of changing horses; by which means the passengers will arrive in good time to dinner.

"Inside fare 15s. and outside 9s. N.B. The old Coach every morning as usual."

In the Autumn of 1809, Mr. Joseph Lancaster delivered one of his lectures on education at Newport, and as a result the inhabitants, at a public meeting, held in October 1809, resolved on establishing a school for the instruction of the poor of Newport and the adjoining villages, and a liberal subscription was immediately set on foot.[1]

In December of the same year, the Rev. C. Kipling advertised for a young man of suitable qualifications to undertake the management of a free school, upon the system of Mr. Joseph Lancaster, so that although the British School in High Street was not open until 1811, there seems to have been temporary accommodation provided at a somewhat earlier date.

Newport was not, however, devoid of a private school at the time, for J. B. Dix in January, 1808, announces the re-opening of his "Academy." "Terms:—Board and tuition 22 guineas per

1 Northampton Mercury, 7th Octr., 1809.

annum. Washing half a guinea per quarter. Entrance gratis." A year later he announces that his "Plan of education is similar to that of Eton and Rugby," and that "a French emigrant of the first respectability, is engaged to teach the French language."

In June, 1809, the young gentlemen belonging to Mr. Dix's Academy, at the breaking up for the Midsummer vacation delivered "their severall select speeches, from the most admired and approved authors, in Latin, French, and English, to a numerous and respectable audience who were highly gratified and much pleased with their performances."

Other well-known private schools of a somewhat later date were those of Mr. Burn for boys, and Mrs. Ward for girls.

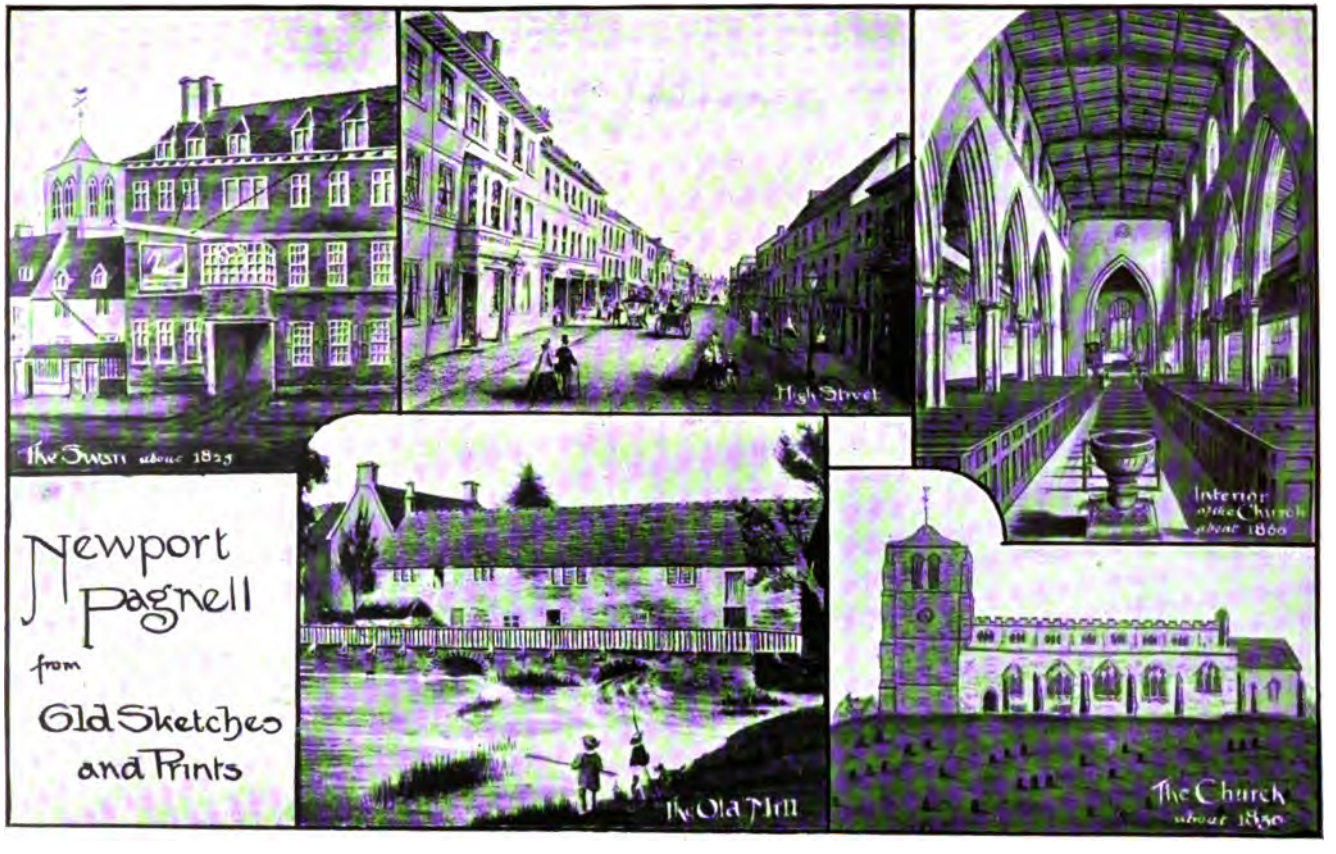
Perhaps the first mention of a Horticultural Society at Newport is that contained in the following paragraph, which appeared in the "Northampton Mercury" of 19th August, 1809:—

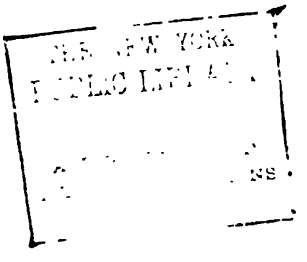
"On Thursday last the first meeting of the Horticultural Society of Newport Pagnell Bucks was held at the Swan Inn, when the prizes were awarded as follows:—

"The first carnation prize to Mr. Thomas Truelove of Newport, the second ditto, to Mr. Joseph Penn, of this town; and the third ditto to Mr. B. Truelove. The seedling prize, to the said Mr. Penn. The picotee prize, to Mr. Heeley of Newport. The gooseberry prize to Mr. T. Truelove. The first melon prize to Mr. Heeley; and the second ditto to Mr. W. B. Perkins, of this town.

"The Company, consisting of some of the most respectable characters of that town and neighbourhood partook of an excellent dinner: and the day was spent in the greatest harmony and conviviality. In honour to Sir Arthur Wellesley, the seedling was named after that gallant hero. Mr. Higgins and Mr. Knibb were appointed stewards for the ensuing year."

On 6th February, 1814, Mr. George Osborn, of Newport, thus writes in his diary:—"It has been severe frosty weather the last seven weeks, no mail nor other coaches up or down from Wednesday until Sabbath Day, nor any letter bags, all communication broke off by a very deep snow, drifted in some parts of the road the height of the top of the Coach, which was obliged to be cut thro' before carriages could pass, vast numbers of hands were employed in removing it. The long continuance of the Frost has occasioned a great scarcity of fuel both wood and coals. Coals


The Swan about 1823
High Street
Interior of the Church about 1860
Newport Pagnell
from
Old Sketches
and Prints
The Old Mill
The Church
about 1850



sold at 4s. hundred wt. and indeed not to be procured at any price only by the Hundd. . . . People in the town are burning green wood just cut down. . . . Bread is 11d. quartern loaf."

In "The New British Traveller," published in 1819, James Dugdale, LL.D., the author, states that the weekly market was then held on Saturdays; that there were fairs on 22nd February, 22nd April, 22nd June, 29th August, 22nd October, and 22nd December, and that the Petty Sessions for the Newport Hundred were holden in the town.

Doctor Dugdale also says:—"The greater part of the labouring inhabitants of Newport Pagnell are employed in the manufacture of lace, of which a greater quantity is made here by hand than in any other town in England. Every Wednesday a market is held for the sale of this article, great quantities of which are also sold at the fairs."

Pennant, a little earlier, in 1811, in his journey from Chester to London, says the town "flourishes greatly by means of the lace manufacture. . . . . There is scarcely a door of a cottage to be seen during summer, but what is occupied by some industrious pale-faced lass; their sedentary trade forbidding the rose to bloom in their sickly cheeks."

In 1814 an Act (54 George III., cap. 98) was obtained authorising the construction of a navigable canal connecting Newport with the Grand Junction Canal at Great Linford. The canal was soon after made and continued in use until it was purchased in 1864 by the Newport Railway Company.

On 23rd May, 1823, an Act "for more effectually amending, repairing, and keeping in repair, the road from the toll-gate, in the parish of Kettering, through Wellingborough, in the County of Northampton, and through Olney over Sherington Bridge to Newport Pagnell, in the County of Buckingham," received the Royal Assent. The Act recites four others of a similar nature, namely, 27 George II., c. 31, 13 George III., c. 87, 21 George III., c. 103, and 42 George III., c. 37. Some of these older Acts provided for the repairing and widening or re-building of Sherington bridge, while one of them contained provisions for moving the turnpike erected in Sherington Field to the North end of Sherington Bridge.

The 1823 Act enacted, however, that the turnpike gate and weighing machine at the North end of Sherington Bridge should be

removed and none others set up across the road referred to therein nearer to Newport Pagnell than the distance of one furlong north from the road leading from Newport Pagnell to Bedford, which road turned off to Chichley near the weigh-post in Sherington Field.

The toll authorised for horses, drawing carts, and carriages was 6d.; for every horse, mule, or ass, laden or unladen, and not drawing one penny halfpenny; for every score of oxen or neat cattle, tenpence, and so in proportion for any less number; and for every score of calves, swine, sheep or lambs, fivepence, and so in proportion for any less number.

Chalk and lime was exempted from toll, and it was provided that not more than four full tolls were to be taken in any one day, and that tolls were to be paid but once a day at each gate save in the case of stage coaches or hired carriages, which were to pay each time.

On 31st October, 1823, Mr. Osborn writes, "A tremendous storm of wind bringing with it a heavy rain and snow, so much so as to tear up many hundreds and probably thousands of trees from their roots from two to three to ten in a body together. The overflow of water in our river was beyond any precedent. The roads were rendered impassable for Coaches and travelling on horseback for several hours. On the Friday night all our neighbours who lived in the lower parts of the town were driven upstairs, while the water was more than four feet deep below. Some of the poor people suffered for want of food, &c., not being able to procure it. . . . Their houses were in a most uncomfortable state. . . . . A subscription of £36, with which Coals were purchased and 2cwt. sent to each of the poor Inhabitants whose Houses had been flooded. . . . Two persons were drowned near Newport."

On 1st January, 1826, there were living at Newport Pagnell twelve persons whose united ages amounted to one thousand years; and what is very remarkable, one of the number died in each succeeding week, leaving in February six, viz., three men and three women living, who conjointly measured a period of 505 years.[1]

Perhaps the last reference to the stocks occurs on 28th October, 1826, when the Jurors of the Manor Court made a presentment

1 "Northampton Mercury," 18th Feb., 1862.

that the stocks were out of repair, and that the same ought to be maintained and kept in repair by the Lord of the Manor.

The population is 1801, as already stated, was 2,048; in 1821 it was 3,103; in 1831 was 3,385; in 1841, 3,569; in 1851, 3651; in 1861, 3,822; and in 1871, 3,824.

In 1881 it was 3,686, and there were 799 inhabited houses. In 1891 the respective figures were 3788 and 842.

In August, 1834, there was an outbreak of cholera at Newport, the National School being used as Hospital, and all dangerous cases removed to it. There were some 26 victims.[1]

In the year 1837 it was decided to supply "the town of Newport Pagnell and the neighbourhood thereof with inflammable air or gas," and to that end a number of the principal inhabitants entered into a deed of co-partnership on the 25th March, 1837. The business was thereunder to be carried on under the title or firm of "The Newport Pagnell Gas and Coke Company," and it was provided that the capital should be £2,400, divided into 240 shares of £10 each. These were taken up by about 65 persons, some only holding one share and none more than ten each, who were all parties to the deed.

The works in Marsh End were at once proceeded with, and the first gas was apparently made on 21st December following. For many years the undertaking was leased to Mr. Richard Sheppard, and appears to have been of a somewhat unprofitable nature to the proprietors. In April, 1874, however, a Limited Company, called "The Newport Pagnell Gas and Coke Company, Limited," was formed to acquire the gasworks with a capital of £3,522 (increased in 1895), in £4 shares, and an entirely new complexion has, as is well known, been put on matters.

On 9th April, 1838, the L.N.W. Railway was opened at Bletchley, and at least one Newport inhabitant went to London by the first train to test the new method of locomotion.

On 25th February, 1839, what was probably one of the first public temperance meetings at Newport, was held at the British School, and 40 present joined the Society for total abstinence.[2]

It seems to have been the custom to hold a Statute Fair in September, and a Mop Statute in October, about the end of the "forties," at all events.

1 Osborn MS. 2 Ibid.

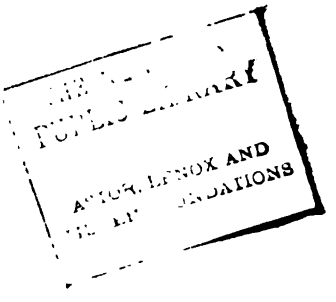
In 1855 the Newport Pagnell Fire Brigade was formed, mainly through the exertions of Mr. E. J. Saunders, of The Bank. There are 24 members, including volunteer and paid, and the Brigade has done exceedingly good work in the course of its career, having attended upwards of 120 fires in the town and district. It has been captained by Messrs. R. Sheppard, 1855—1862; E. H. Croydon, 1862—1870; F. D. Bull, 1870—1875; F. J. Taylor, 1875—1891; and S. L. Coales, the present Captain, while Mr. W. R. Bull has for many years been Chairman of the Committee of Management.

In 1859 the advisability of providing a Cemetery was considered, and on 8th September the Secretary of State wrote the Churchwardens that he proposed to obtain an order prohibiting further burials in the Parish Church, the Baptist Chapel, the Wesleyan Chapel, and in the Independent Chapel, and two adjoining vestries, and that from 1st March, 1861, burials should be prohibited in the parish churchyard and the burial-grounds of the Baptist, Wesleyan, and Independent Chapels, with the exception of certain vaults and brick graves then in existence.

The Order in Council was made on 23rd January, 1860, and, matters being thus brought to a head, a meeting of ratepayers was held in the middle of February, and a Burial Board of nine members appointed; and in July, 1860, it was determined to purchase from Mr. W. B. Bull the close known as Castle or Hill Close and certain small pieces of land adjoining, containing in the whole about three acres, and also certain buildings and premises in the street or lane leading thereto. The total cost was estimated at about £2000.

In July, 1859, it appearing that Bury Field had for many years been allowed to become overrun with weeds and thistles, especially the weed known as common ragwort, the then 229 commonholders, desiring to see an "improvement," issued a handbill calling upon all whom it might concern to join in this most laudable object and contribute, either by labour or subscription, towards this accomplishment.

As a result of a meeting, held at the Swan Hotel on the 21st July, the town was divided into districts and subscriptions obtained, and on 25th July, at 6 a.m., the work was begun. At first there were few labourers, but the number gradually increased, and in the after part of the day amounted to several hundreds, including the school children, to whom holiday was


ASTOR, LENOX AND

given, and by dusk the field "was (with a few solitary exceptions) entirely cleared of those noxious weeds that had been so long occupying so much valuable space." "The only expense incurred was providing ale for those who thought proper to partake of it." The clearance of the field was celebrated on the following Monday by public teas partaken of by old and young, and sports.*

On the 10th March, 1863, the occasion of the Prince of Wales's marriage was duly celebrated in the usual loyal Newport fashion by salutes, processions, dinners, sports, teas, and bonfires, and a dance.

In June, 1864, the Churchwardens gave notice that the following alterations would be made in the days for holding fairs, viz. :—

"The fair heretofore held on the 22nd of October will be held on the first Wednesday after the 21st of October.

"The fair heretofore held on the 22nd of February will be held on the first Wednesday after the 21st of February.

"The fair heretofore held on the 22nd of April will be held on the first Wednesday after the 21st of April.

"The fair heretofore held on the 21st of March will be discontinued."

The Cattle Plague gave rise to much apprehension in the latter part of 1865, and the Newport Pagnell District Cattle Plague Mutual Association was formed to insure against loss of Stock. The Association was dissolved in August, 1866.

So seriously, however, was the matter regarded that on Friday, 3rd March, 1866, special services were held at the Parish Church, according to a wish expressed by the Bishop of Oxford, in order to beseech God "to be entreated for the land and stay the ravages committed by the Cattle Plague."

In March, 1868, the Steeplechases were revived, after a lapse of 19 years, but the two meetings were not successful.

As early as 1720 or so the "Magna Britannia" says of Newport that "here are often Horse-Races." The races formerly generally, if not always, took place in Bury Field, and were held at intervals more or less regular for many years, and race bills for the years 1771, 1776, 1781, 1782, and 1827 are, or were lately, extant.

After about 1868 there was, however, another gap, until under the title of "Pony and Galloway Races," the races were revived about

1 "Croydon's Weekly Standard," 6th August, 1859.

1888. Since then they have been held pretty generally, and of late the course chosen has been the Woad Farm.[1]

In 1862 the question of railway communication came to the front.

In former times 33 four-horse coaches passed through the town in 24 hours, but about 1840 the coaches ceased running, and there was at the time simply an omnibus service, morning and evening, to and from Wolverton.[2]

Eventually an Act was obtained in 1863[3] authorising the incorporation of a Company for making a railway from the London and North-Western Railway at Wolverton to Newport Pagnell, for purchasing the Newport Pagnell Canal and stopping up and diverting its waters and appropriating so much of it as was necessary for the purposes of the intended railway, and for entering into agreements with the London and North-Western Railway Company as to the maintenance and working of the new railway.

As a result of the passing of the Act the canal was purchased by the New Railway Company in 1864, being closed on August 29th in that year. The Act recites that the Canal had not for many years then past been a profitable undertaking, and that it would be superseded by the proposed railway, owing to the greater facilities and accommodation which such railway would afford.

The permanent way of the line was completed in September, 1865, and on Saturday, 30th September, the first train, consisting of 17 ballast waggons filled with navvies employed in the works, ran through from Wolverton.

In 1865 an Act for the extension of the line to Olney was obtained, and in 1866 an Act for its further extension to Wellingborough.

At a meeting of Shareholders of the Newport Company, held in August, 1866, it was stated that the importance which the latter extension would confer upon the Newport Pagnell Railway (by placing it in connexion with the Midland as well as with the London and North-Western system) could scarcely be overrated;

1 This farm is so called from the fact that woad was some years ago grown there.

2 Evidence of Mr. W. B. Bull before the Lords Committee on Railway Bill, 15th June, 1863.

3 The Royal Assent was given 29th June, 1863.

and the Directors congratulated the proprietors upon this valuable addition to the undertaking. The capital account to the 30th of June showed that £122,025 had been expended.[1]

The line was opened for passenger traffic on 2nd September, 1867, a gratuitous trip to Wolverton being run about a quarter-past one, every carriage being filled to overflowing, and the occasion being observed as a general holiday. The normal train service was commenced on the following day.

In the same month an omnibus to meet all trains at a fare of 6d. was started by Mrs. Fountain, of "The Swan." At the same time Mrs. Fountain also advertised that an omnibus would run daily from Newport to Olney on the arrival of the 11-23 a.m. down train, returning in time for the 2-40 p.m. up train. A morning omnibus from Olney at 7-40 is also referred to.

In 1870 the Newport Railway Company obtained another Act giving them certain extensions of time and powers as to capital and finance, and in the following year, 1871, still another Act.

In 1874, however, they found it necessary to apply to Parliament for power to abandon the construction of all the proposed additional lines and to lease or sell their undertaking to the London and North-Western Railway Company.

As a result the undertaking was in 1875 sold to the last-named Company. The line to Olney was never finished, and the traces of the works are gradually vanishing.

On 7th February, 1888, the present Waterworks were formally opened by the late Mr. Richard Littleboy, who turned on the valve at the Water Tower, which had been erected at the top of Ash Lane.

In the following year the old High Street Pump was removed. The history of its origin is interesting. It appears that there was formerly a row of houses running down the middle of a portion of High Street. One of these in 1749 was owned and occupied by one Gilbert Johnson. It later became the property of John Haddon, and in 1774 was conveyed to John Wilson as a toft or piece of ground bounded on the East by a toft of ground the property of Robert Perrott and on the West by the common butchers' shambles. On 21st April, 1796, an agreement was entered into by William Payne, George Knibbs, John Keep, James Pike, Robert Collison, and Henry Marshall to sink a well and erect a pump on the premises. In 1805 the property became

[1] "Croydon." 11th August, 1866.

vested in Henry Marshall, William Keep, and James Pike.

The interest of the two first named was afterwards purchased by Mr. William Taylor, and the remaining one-third interest became the property of Mr. G. O. Price. The third shares being freeholds, and formerly of the value of 40s. each, for many years conferred the County Franchise on their owners.

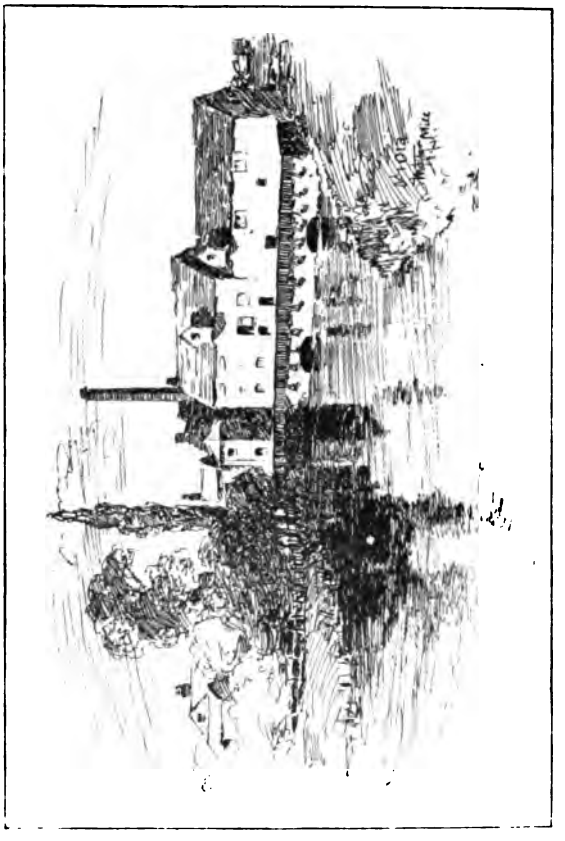
There is a reference to these houses in the middle of High Street in the Court Rolls of 1790, as it was then presented that "the way opposite the Swan Inn was out of repair in length 27 feet and in breadth 15 feet and that same ought to be repaired by John Hollingworth as owner and proprietor of the Swan Inn or the ground whereon three tenements formerly stood should be fenced out by and at the expense of the said John Hollingworth."

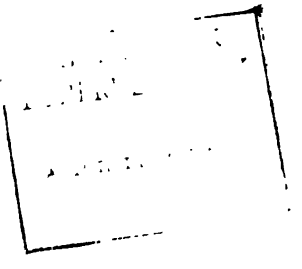
In the same rolls there is a reference to the foot bridge opposite to the Town Pump near Bury Field gate being out of repair. This is probably the pump which stood in front of Mr. Lucas's house.

On the morning of 8th June, 1880, what may perhaps be termed the Great Fire of Newport broke out on the premises of Mr. Egan in High Street, adjoining the Swan. Mr. Egan's premises, as well as two adjoining shops occupied by Mr. Simpson and Mr. Riches were destroyed, while the Swan and the premises occupied by Mrs. Chapman, which latter adjoined those of Mr. Riches, were partly burnt. The damage was estimated at between £7000 and £8000.

Shortly after, on 15th November, 1880, Mr. Whitworth's flour mills were burnt. They were re-erected, but were again, on the 9th February, 1899, destroyed by fire, and at present have not been re-built.

On 21st June, 1887, at Newport Pagnell, as elsewhere, the event of the Queen's Jubilee was most loyally celebrated. The celebrations commenced with the opening, before breakfast, of a new bathing-place on the Willen road. At eight a congratulatory telegram was despatched to Her Majesty. At half-past eleven the townsfolk gathered at the Public Room, and, headed by the Fire Brigade, Band, Postal Officials, and others, proceeded to the Parish Church, where the Vicar conducted a special service. At its close a new bell, presented by Mr. F. J. Taylor, was formally dedicated, and then the mechanism of the chimes, purchased to commemorate the occasion, was put in motion, and "God save





the Queen" played by them. At two there was a knife-and-fork tea in Bury Field, to which 1300 sat down, and at half-past three the children of the town assembled at the North Bridge, and, having been previously presented with a Jubilee Medal, marched in due order to Bury Field, where tea was provided. Sports commenced at half-past four, and at dusk a large bonfire on the hill in the field was ignited, and some coloured fires and rockets provided. At eleven there was a march to High Street to view the decorations, and at midnight the chimes closed the proceedings with the National Anthem.

On 2nd April, 1894, the first School Board for the town was elected. For some time the elementary school accommodation provided by the Voluntary Schools had been insufficient, and the formation of a Board to deal with the matter appeared to be the only way out of the difficulty.

The Board ultimately decided to erect the buildings now standing in Bury Street, and which were formally opened on 10th November, 1896. They accommodate 350 boys, 280 girls, and 296 infants, and cost about £10,768. On their completion the old National School by the river and the British Schools in High Street and Union Street were closed, and the children transferred to the new buildings.

On 22nd June, 1897, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was loyally celebrated.

At eight, a congratulatory telegram was sent to Her Majesty; at ten, there was a cycle parade; at one, a town's procession; at two, a children's procession; at three, a children's and old people's tea in tents and in the open in Bury Field, the children being presented with enamelled metal mugs bearing two portraits of the Queen, 1837 and 1897; from three till about eight, sports in Bury Field; at 9-30, fireworks in the same place; and at 10-30, a torchlight procession through the town.

To keep the High Street clear Long Fair was kept in Bury Field; the town was well decorated and at night illuminated, and the whole of the proceedings passed off most satisfactorily.

After paying the cost of the public celebrations, it was found that there was a balance of £25 1s. 0d., and this sum was handed over to a Nursing Association, which was then formed, and called the Newport Pagnell Diamond Jubilee Nursing and Good Samaritan Society, and which is, in reality, an expanded form of

the old Parochial Nursing Association.

On 25th September, 1897, an Urban District Council for the Parish was elected, the number of its members being nine. For some years previously it had been felt that the town ought to have a direct governing body, and one, too, with proper powers to do what was necessary for its welfare, the Parish Council created by the Local Government Act of 1894 being found wanting in these respects.

The failure of the attempt to connect Newport with Olney by railway has been recorded, but the complete abandonment of the partially completed works did not deter the promoters of a Tramroad Company from attempting to carry through the construction of a steam tramway on the roadside between the two towns, in the course of the "eighties."

Despite the fact, however, that the works in connection with the project were to a considerable extent completed, it was given up.

With the advent of Motor cars, however, the seemingly impracticable appeared to have become practicable, and in January, 1899, the Newport Pagnell Motor Car Co. Limited, commenced a motor car service between the towns, the coming and going of the cars being now a familiar spectacle to the inhabitants.

Ansculf was [illegible] of Picquigny on the Somme, near Amiens. He is thought to have come to England with the Confessor, and to have been followed by his brothers (3rd son) in the train of Wm the Conqueror. The seat of Giles's property was at [illegible] Pinkney (now [illegible] Weedon) in Northamptonshire. The adjoining village of [illegible] Pinkney was part of Ansculf's Domesday award.

CHAPTER II.

THE MANOR.

THERE do not appear to be any Saxon grants relating to Newport in existence, although there is one, of 944, by which King Eadmund gave his thegn Aelfheah land at Linford.[1]

The first reliable mention of Newport is to be found in Domesday Book,[2] the following being a translation of the entry referring to this Manor:—

This was the Pinkney Barony.

"Land of William Son of Ansculf. In Sigelai Hundred. Manor. William himself holds Nevport. It answered for five hides. There is land to nine ploughs. There are four carucates of land in the demesne, and there are four ploughs there; and five villains have five ploughs. The burgesses have six ploughs and a half, and of other vassals not working upon the five hides, (aliorumque hominum ext. v. hid. laborantes). There are nine bondmen; and two mills of forty shillings. Meadow for all the ploughs, and ten shillings. Pannage for three hundred hogs, and two shillings, and moreover four shillings from the vassals who dwell in the wood; and for all other rents it pays yearly one hundred shillings, and sixteen shillings and fourpence. Its whole value is twenty pounds; and it was worth in King Edward's time twenty-four pounds. Vlf, a thane of King Edward's, held this Manor."

William Fitz Ansculf was a very powerful Baron at the time of the Conquest, if one may judge by the number of manors and possessions which he held, for he had ten Lordships in Berkshire, one in Middlesex, one in Oxfordshire, one in Hunts, one in Cambridgeshire, seven in Surrey, four in Northants, seven in Warwickshire, twenty in Bucks, twenty-five in Staffordshire, and fourteen in Worcestershire, of which Dudley, where he had a

1 Birch's Charters, Vol. II., 551, No. 798. 2 Bawdwen's Domesday.

castle, was one.[1] He is sometimes called Ansculf de Pinchengi. It does not seem clear what issue he had (if any), but his lands, or the greater part thereof, appear to have passed to the Paganel family—it is said by the marriage of his only child, a daughter, Beatrix, with Fulc Paganell.

The Paganells were a wealthy family. At the time of the Domesday Survey Ralph Paganell held ten Lordships in Devon, five in Somersetshire, fifteen in Lincolnshire, and fifteen in Yorkshire, and in 1089 founded the Priory of the Holy Trinity York, for Nuns, in a place where formerly stood a House of Canons, which was destroyed by William I. In the time of that King, too, he was Sheriff of Yorkshire.

It was his son Fulk, or Fulcodius, Paganell who is said to have married Beatrix Ansculf, and who, at any rate, came into possession of a great part of Fitz Ansculf's lands.

It was Fulk Paganel, too, who founded Tickford Priory, as mentioned elsewhere, in the reign of William Rufus.

To him succeeded Ralph Paganel, his son and heir, who, in 5th Stephen, taking part with Maud, the Empress, was by her made Governor of Nottingham Castle (William Peverill, then Lord thereof, being taken prisoner at the Battle of Lincoln fighting for Stephen). He instigated Robert Earl of Gloucester to enter the town, the inhabitants being practically unarmed, and it was first plundered and then burnt by the soldiers.

Ralph Paganel left issue Gervase, William (who founded Drax Priory, Yorkshire), Hugh, Adam, Jordan, and Alexander.

Gervase in 1138 adhering, like his father, to the Empress Maud, held Dudley Castle for her, and in 12 Henry II., upon the assessment of the aid for marrying the King's daughter (and being then resident at Dudley) certified his Knight's fees De Vetteri Feoffamento to be 50 and those De Novo $6\frac{1}{3}$. In 20 Henry II., however, he took part in the Rebellion of the King's eldest son, Henry, and as a result the Castle of Dudley was demolished the year after. A little later, however, 22 Henry II., Gervase reconciled himself to the King by giving him, as a peace-offering for his transgressions, 500 marks.

In 1189 he was one of the Barons who attended Richard I. at his first solemn coronation, and it was Gervase Pagnel who, in

1 Dugdale's Baronage.

accordance with his father's desire, founded Dudley Priory.

Gervase married Isabel, daughter of Robert Earl of Leicester and widow of Simon St. Liz Earl of Northampton, by whom he had issue one[1] son, Robert, who predeceased him, leaving no issue. His sister[1] Hawyse survived him, however, and became his heiress.

By her first marriage with John de Somery the Barony of Dudley, of which Newport was a member, passed into the hands of the Somery family, who appear to have anciently had a Barony in Cambridgeshire.

Ralph, the son of John and Hawyse, succeeded, and in 6 Richard I. accounted 300 marks for livery of the Barony of Gervase Paganel, his mother's brother,[1] until the King's return from Almaine, and in the same year, on the collection of the aid for the ransom of Richard I., paid fifty pounds for the fees of Gervase Paganel. The sum of 300 marks was not, however, paid till 1 John.

In 10 John, giving the King one hundred pounds and two palfreys, he had livery of the Lordship of Newport, which his mother formerly held, and for which he thereupon did homage.

In the Dodsworth MS. (xxx. 47) is a charter of Ralph de Sumeri whereby he granted to Nicholas, son of Michael, for his homage and service, the length of the place where shops were in the market-place of Newport in the time of Gervase Paganel, and the breadth of sixteen feet from the wall. The rent reserved was twelve pence, and the witnesses included Richard de Lindesi, Richard de Selleia, Williamson of Widon, Henry de Neuport, Walter the Miller, Simon son of Nicholas, Richard de Rushal, and John de Neuport.

Ralph de Somery died in 12 John, and Margaret, his wife, gave the King a fine of 300 marks to have an assignation of her dower. William Percival de Somery, his son and heir, succeeded, but being a minor on his father's death, was in ward for his Barony, which consisted of ten knights' fees and three-parts.

His guardian was apparently Randolph Earl of Chester, to whom King John in 1216 granted the Manor of Newport Paynell with all its appurtenances, to hold in the same manner as the Earl of Salisbury held it, and ordered full seizen to be at once given him. [2]

1 See foot notes in Tickford Section on Paynels.

2 Lit. Claus, 18 John, pt. 2, m. 3.

In the fourth year of Henry III., in Michaelmas term, William de Beauchamp sought liberties for the Manor of Newport, and from the Plea Rolls[1] it appears that the jurors stated that before the war of Leicester between King Henry and his son the Manor of Newport Paynell had liberties but they did not know what; that after that war the King was angry with Gervase Paynel, then Lord of Newport, because he was with his son in the war against him, and he would not permit that Manor to have any liberties. So that at all times afterwards all the life of that King that Manor did suit and services like other neighbouring Manors, and all the time of King Richard, and after that until the Manor was in the custody of Ralph Gernon, who had permission for freedom from those services, and after that while in the custody of the Earl of Salisbury.

Upon the collection of the Scutage of Bitham in 5 Henry III. William Percival de Somery, who was probably with the army there, was acquitted thereof. He died in 6 Henry III., and thereupon the wardship of Nicholas de Somery, his son and heir, with all his lands, was also committed to Ranulf Earl of Chester.

Nicholas dying without issue in 13 Henry III.,[2] the Barony and lands reverted to his uncle, Roger de Somery, who, it is said, performed his homage and had livery of them the same year.

He, however, neglecting to obey a summons to receive the honour of knighthood, was dispossessed of the Manor four years later by King Henry III.

Madox, in his History of the Exchequer, states that in 1233 "because Roger de Somerie had not appeared before the King to take up knighthood the Sheriff of Worcester was commanded to seize on the honour of Dudley and all the lands of the said Roger in his jurisdiction for the King's use, and to keep them so that nothing more was moved off without the King's permission."[3]

In 1230 Henry III. granted the farm of the Manor of Newport to Walter de Kirkham for life, quitting him and all his men during his life of suits to county and hundred and of aids to sheriffs and his bailiffs, and that when the King or his heirs should tallage their Manors and demesnes the said Walter might by himself and to his own use tallage the said Manor in like form as it might be tallaged if it were in the King's hand.[4]

1 Placito de Banco, 4 Henry III. Dodsworth MS., xlii., fol. 135 b, cxxiv., 87 b.
2 Rot. Claus. 13 Henry III., m. 7. 3 Rot. Fin. 17 Henry III., m. 5.
4 Madox's History and Antiquities of the Exchequer, I., 418.

In the same year he answered at the Exchequer the Ferm of the Manor of Newport, viz., £41 3s. 4d. by Tale for £40, which were wont to be rendered for the same, the Ferm to be rendered at Michaelmas and Easter.[1]

De Kirkham's name, however, does not appear again, and it would seem that at this time—and as early, indeed, as 4 or 5 Henry III., as already mentioned—William Beauchamp became interested in Newport as, apparently, part of the dower of his wife Ida.

In 19 Henry III. he was made Sheriff of Bucks and Beds, and obtained a Charter to himself and Ida his wife that the Manor of Newport of her dowry should thenceforth be exempt from suit to the County or Hundred Court and to the Sheriff and view of Frankpledge.[2]

In 25 Henry III. Rogery de Somery, being about to go with the King into Gascony, the Barons of the Exchequer were commanded to respite his account till his return.[3]

De Somery, notwithstanding the apparent seizure of his estates, had, it would seem, an interest in Newport in 1245, for in an Inquisition taken in 29 Henry III (No. 50) of the King's fees, escheats, &c., the Jurors stated that the Lord Roger de Somery had fifty-three dwelling-houses within the borough of Newport Paynel, which were held of him in capite as therein underwritten. A list of all the tenants, most of whom paid a given quit rent and four times did suit at the portmote and once view of frankpledge on the Wednesday before Whit-Sunday, was then given. Then came a list of such of the tenants as held by various tenures and of various Lords, such as—Martin le Clerc, who held a cottage of Roger de Somery, and rendered two capons and nothing else. John Waryn, who held a messuage of the Master of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, rendering annually to the Master of the Hospital of St. John in Hogesehawe xiid.[4] and nothing else, it not being known by whose gift nor in the time of which King. Robert

1 Mag. Rot. 14 Henry III., Tit. Buckingham and Bedford.

2 Close Rolls, 19 Henry III., m. 7. In 5 Henry III. William was excused suits and aids in respect of lands in the honor of Newport. Close Rolls, 5 Henry III., pt. 1., m. 20. See also 4 Henry III., m. 14, and 7 Henry III., pt. 1., m. 28.

3 Memorabilia, 25 Henry III. Rot. 6 a.

4 In 14 Edward I. the claim of the Prior of St. John of Jerusalem to have view of frankpledge waifs and freedom from service at Newport Paynel and elsewhere was called in question. Assize Rolls, No. 64, m. 4.

de Stoke, who held a cottage of the Abbot of Lavenden, rendering yearly xiid., being the gift of John de Marston. William, son of Vincent, who held a messuage of the Lord John de Pateshull, rendering yearly by way of service three barbed arrows and nothing else.

After mentioning the tenants the Jurors conclude by stating that Lord Rogery de Somery had a market within the borough of Newport Paynell, with the liberties belonging thereto, viz., Tolls, Pillory, and Ducking-stool: it was not known from what date or by the grant of what king. Also that Roger de Somery had a fair within the said borough of Newport, commencing on the day of St. Luke the Evangelist and lasting for seven days, by grant of the Lord King Henry, son of King John, to Roger de Somery.

The latter notes are particularly interesting, as they show that a market had been held practically from time immemorial, and that a fair had then comparatively recently been allowed to be held by a grant from Henry III.

In the Hundred Rolls of 39 Henry III. relating to Newport the Jurors state that "Sir William de Beauchamp holds the town of Newport freely in the name of dower through Lady Ida his wife, and receives the customs of the burgesses by ancient holdings, as Gervase Paynel and Hawis Paynel held of the king."

The Jurors, in their return, go on to state, in reply to a number of set queries, "Of suits due to the counties and hundreds, &c., they say that the township of Newport does no suit on account of liberty."

"Of the King's Castles, &c., they say that the King has no Castle in the town of Newport, nor is there anyone who owes ward to any foreign castle."

"They say that Sir William de Beauchamp holds view of frank-pledge and assize of bread and ale by ancient holdings and liberties, and the Prior of Tikeford also."

"Of religious men and others who implead laymen, they say that Robert Paganus impleaded many of chattels before the Judges commissioned, to wit, Hugh, clerk, and William, son of Henry."

They say further that "the Prior of Tikeford has assize of bread and ale and marking of bushels and gallons in Newport. They know not by what warrant. Also William, son of Geoffrey de Neuport, likewise takes assize of ale, and claims to be quit of

murder and of all tallages in the town of Neuport. They know not by what warrant."

"And they say that the borough of Neuport at no time paid hidage, and they say that Robert de Braybrook in his time received nothing within the borough neither before nor after, because they (the Burgesses) have no land except free burgage."

In the Testa de Neville (temp. Henry III. and Edward I.), under the Honor of Dudley, the following entry occurs :—

Neuport { William Beauchamp holds in the Lordship, in right of his wife's dowry, to the extent that John de Lavente held, a quarter part of a knight's fee.
Deudone de Kaldecote holds a quarter part of a knight's fee.
John Grion in the same, and in Wulsiston half a fee.
Chechel { The Prior of Tigford holds a fee of the same honor.

In the Hundred Rolls of 4 Edward I. the jurors state :—

"That the heirs of Roger de Somery have assize of bread and ale at Neuport Paynell.

"That Hugh le Ver claims to have a warren at Calverton.

"That William de Beauchamp and Ida his wife have appropriated to themselves the water of Lavente in severalty which all the men of Newport were wont to have in common.

'That whereas the men of the town of Newport were wont to have in common the demesne pastures of the Lord of Newport for the period between the feast of Saint Michael and the feast of St. Martin, the same Lord prevented them, and empastured his cattle in the aforesaid pasture, to their no small hurt.

"That whereas the same men of Newport were wont to have in common certain pasture of the prior of Newport, that is to say, against the court of Newport from the time of carrying hay up to the feast of St. Mary in March, the same prior deforced to them the aforesaid common to the no little hurt of the whole country."

In the same rolls, under the heading of the Township of Neuporte Paynel, it is stated that the jurors of that town say "that the Lord of the fee has assize of bread and beer and whatsoever belongs as royalty. Also they say that Ida Beauchamp has the town of Neuport Paynel in dower, and Michael de Quernden, at that time her steward, had a warren in the common field of Neuport, where none ought to be. Also that he had appropriated of the aforesaid lady the fishery of the water from the place that is

called Marbelston up to the place which is called Merdik and the fishery from the North mill up to the Idle court.

"They also say that Master Richard de Clifford, escheator of the Lord King, took a mark from the burgesses of Neuport unjustly. Robert Peytevin, sub-escheator, took from the same four shillings and fourpence halfpenny unjustly, and two shillings of William de Hemberton unjustly. Also they say that the aforesaid Master Richard took from the same township forty shillings, as they were unwilling to fight with his men against the men of Ralph Pipar. Also they say that the same Richard has imprisoned Walter le Follere because he said one bushel of corn was sold for 11d., and so it was sold."

William de Beauchamp died in 1260, and soon after his death—if not before—Roger de Somery regained the possession of the Manor of Newport.

He would seem, indeed, to have regained the royal favour and most of his estates soon after the knighthood episode, for in 29 Henry III., on the collection of the aid for the King's daughter, he paid £51 for 51 Knights' fees.

In 37 Henry III. he went with the King on his expedition into Gascoigne.

In 41 Henry III., too, he was summoned to attend the King at Bristol on the Feast day of St. Peter ad Vincula, well fitted with horse and arms, to restrain the incursion of the Welsh. Like orders to attend the King at Chester and Hereford were issued in the 42nd and 47th years of Henry III. respectively.

In 48 Henry III., at the time of the Barons' rebellion, he was allowed to make a Castle of his residence at Dudley, and in the same year, on 14th May, fighting for the King, was taken prisoner at the battle of Lewes.

In 54 Henry III. there was a Royal confirmation of the Market and Fairs, the document reading as follows:—

"The King to the Archbishops, &c., greeting. Know ye that we have granted, and by this our Charter we have confirmed, to our beloved and faithful Roger de Somery, that he and his heirs may for ever have a market once a week on Saturday at his Manor of Neuport Paynel, in the County of Buckingham, and a fair there once a year of eight days' duration, namely, on the eve, on the day, and on the morrow of St. Luke the Evangelist, and for the five days following, so nevertheless that such market and such fair

are not to the hurt of neighbouring markets and neighbouring fairs. Wherefore we will and firmly bind both ourselves and our heirs that the said Roger and his heirs may for ever have the aforesaid market and fair at his aforesaid Manor, with all the liberties and free customs to a market and fair of this kind belonging. . . . ."

The Charter was dated at Westminster on 12th February, and attested by the Archbishop of York, Primate of England, the Bishop of Worcester, and many others. [1]

Roger de Somerie died in 1272, and was buried at Dudley Priory; and in 1290 Roger, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, granted a special indulgence of forty days of their enjoyned penance to all such as being truly confessed and contrite should say a paternoster and an ave for his soul and the souls of all the faithful deceased. The like indulgence was granted also by other Ecclesiastical dignitaries in later years.

Roger, by his first wife Nichola de Albani, one of the sisters and co-heirs of Hugh de Albani Earl of Arundel, had four daughters (Joane, who married John le Strange, Mabel, who married Walter de Suley, Maude, who married Sir Henry de Erdington and second William Bifield, and Margaret, who married Ralph de Cromwell), and by his second wife Amabel, widow of Gilbert de Segrave, and daughter and heiress of Sir Robert de Chaucomb, Knight, he had two sons, Roger and John, and one daughter, Margaret, who married Ralph Lord Basset of Drayton.

On the 26th day of August, in the first year of the reign of Edward I., the King's escheator on this side the Trent, was commanded to take into his hands all the lands of Roger de Somery, who was tenant in chief to the King and then dead, and to make full enquiries as to what he died possessed of.

In pursuance of the writ an Extent of the Manor of Newport Pannell was taken, the Jurors stating "that the capital Messuage, with a Dovehouse and a Garden, are worth by the year one mark. Also that there are in Demesne 687 acres and a half of arable land, at the least whereof 240 are valued at £4, the price of the acre 4d., and 447 acres and a half are valued at £14 18s. 4d., the price of the acre 8d. Also there are 66 acres and a half of Mowable Meadow, and they are valued at £6 12s. od., the price of the acre

1 Charter Rolls, 54 Henry III., ms. 14, 15.

2s. Also a several pasture for Oxen and Cows is worth by the Year 35s. Also the pasture in the park if the Deer were removed is worth by the year 35s. Also the underwood in the park is worth to be sold by the year 40s. Also they say that the Mill towards the North is worth by the Year 10 Marks. Also the Fishery is worth by the year 20s. Also the Rents of the Burgesses within the Borough are worth by the year 101s. Also the Pleas of the Market, with the Toll and a certain Oven, are worth by the year 10 Marks. Also of the rent of free tenants there £7 5s. 11d., and three Pounds of Pepper of the price of 18d., and one pound of Cummin of the price of 1d. And two arrows of the price of 1d. Also of the View of Frankpledge there £5 14s. 4d. Also there are of the rent of Customary Tenants £5 9s. 11½d. Also there are twenty-nine Customary Tenants who hold 31 yardlands and a half, and pay no rent by the year but work, and their work is worth by the year £21 4s. 11½d. Also there are nine other Customary Tenants who pay Rent and work, and their works are worth 67s. 10½d. Also there are 10 other Customary Tenants, each of whom holds one Quarter of land, and they pay rent and work, and their works are worth 38s. 4d. Also the works of Gervase de Kancia are worth 21½d. Also the works of three Cottagers are worth 19½d. Also there are 12 Customary Tenants who hold Northawes, and their works are worth 25s. Also there are other Cottagers whose Works are worth by the year 6s. 6½d. Also there are 68 Hens of rent, and they are worth 5s. 8d., and 4 Geese which are worth 8d. Also there are of custom at the Feast of Saint Martin 20 quarters and a half and one bushel of Oats, and they are worth 27s. 6d., the price of the Quarter 16d. Also the Tollages of the Customary Tenants are worth every year £6 and one mark. Also the Fines, Reliefs, Amerciaments of the Pleas of Court are worth by the year by estimation 100s.

"Also they (the Jurors) say that there are 13 Knights' fees and one quarter belonging to the Manor aforesaid. There is no advowson belonging to the Church but the Advowson of the Priory of Tickford."

The Knights' fees were thus referred to :—

Bucks.....Robert Pugeys holds three fees in Stokeditton.
Robert de Orminge holds two fees in Orminge.
Emberton is held for one fee, and Amarick de

Lucy holds the same fee, but it is not known in what manner.

John de Tyringham holds one Fee in Tyringham and the fourth part of one fee in Great Crawley.[1]

Robert Fitz Adam holds the fourth part of one Fee in Caldecote.

Henry, the Son of William the Clerk, holds the fourth part of one Fee in Woolferton.

Simon de Pateshull holds the fourth part of one Fee in Little Crawley.

Samson Maunsell holds one Fee in Chicheley.

Robert de la Rokeley holds half a Fee in East Wood.

Robert Bryen[2] holds half a Fee in Gilberness.

Oxfordshire.... Robert Pugeys holds one Fee in Chiselhampton.

Huntingdon....William Engayne holds one Fee in Waresley.

Rotel .....Thomas de Colthorp[3] holds one Fee in Colthorp.

Roger was succeeded by his son Roger, who was at the time of his father's death 18 years of age.

In 4 Edward I., the Manor being in the hands of the king by reason of his having the custody of the lands and heirs of Roger de Somery, a fine of 40 shillings was imposed for a pardon granted to Ralph son of Robert de Totehal for an offence committed there.[4]

In 14 Edward I. Roger de Somery was called upon to show title to his claim to have view of frankpledge and waif in Newport and elsewhere, and to have a gallows and right of assize of bread and beer in Newport, and, by Richard Syward, his attorney, he stated that the town was part of the appurtenances of his Barony of Dudley, that he claimed certain rights as appurtenant to his fee, and that he and his predecessors had had others time out of memory.[5]

Roger took part in the Welsh expedition of 10 Edward I., and died 19 Edward I., leaving Agnes his wife and John his son, then twelve years of age, surviving. The annual value of the Manor of

1 Roger, his son, was in the custody of the King, 7 Edward I. Rot. Hundred, Bucks, No. 4, m. 3.

2 A Robert Brian de Merse was said to have the royalty of the Honor of Newport, 7 Edward I. Ibid.

3 Tolthorp 4 Rotul. Originalium, 4 Edward I. Ro. 28.

5 Assize Rolls, 14 Edward I. No. 64, m. 3.

Newport Paynel, which is described as a member of the Barony of Dudley, was then £75 9s. 10½d.[1] This included 403 acres in Portfield, worth 6s. an acre; land in the fields of the park; rents of assize of free and customary tenants, £9 4s. 8½d.; rents of burgesses, 100s.; and 60 hens of Wardens, worth 5s.

In 20 Edward I. there was a grant[2] to Hugh de Veer, king's yeoman, of the custody, during the minority of the heirs, of the Manor of Newport Paynel, late of Roger de Sumery, tenant in chief, extended at £75 9s. 10½d., with knights' fees, &c., and a Mandate, in pursuance, to Malcolm de Haile, escheator, this side Trent.

In 25 Edward I.[3] there was a confirmation of a demise by Thomas Paynel, Knight, keeper of the lands of John de St. John, then in the prison of the King of France, to Agnes, late wife of Roger de Somery, of the custody of the Borough of Dudley and other possessions, to hold during the minority of the heir of the said Roger.

John de Somery, who was not twenty-one in 28 Edward I., and who about that time took part in an expedition against the Scotch, eventually succeeded to the Newport and other estates, and in 34 Edward I. received the honour of knighthood by bathing, &c., with Prince Edward and many others.

In 4 Edward II.[4] he was engaged in the Scotch Wars, and in 8 Edward II. was summoned to Newcastle, well fitted with horses and arms. He received a like summons thrice, too, in later years.

In 15 Edward II. he, with Ralph Lord Basset of Drayton, was commissioned to seize Kenilworth Castle.

John de Somery died upon the Feast of St. Thomas the Martyr before the end of 15 Edward II., and in November, 16 Edward II., his widow Lucia had assigned to her (amongst other estates) for her dower the Manor of Newport Paynel, with its appurtenances in the county of Buckingham, which was then worth per annum £56 18s. 4½d.[5]

At an Inquisition[6] taken at Stony Stratford on 17th September, 16 Edward II., it was found that the following held fees of John

1 Inq. Post Mortem, Edward I., No. 14, Rogery de Somery.
2 Patent Rolls, 20 Edward I., m. 26. 1292, 3d Jan., at Westminster.
3 Ibid. 25 Edward I., pt. 2, m. 12.
4 On 17th July in this year Letters Patent were dated at Newport Pagnell.
5 Close Rolls, 16 Edward II., m. 20.
6 Chancery Inq., p.m. 16, Edward II., No 72.

de Somery, namely :—

Roger de Tyringham, a fee in Tyringham, Felgrave, and Astwood, worth per annum 15s.

Thomas de Furneus, a fee in Emberton worth 40s. per annum.

Robert de Okeneye, a quarter fee in Okeneye worth 10s.

Robert de Rokele, half a fee in Astwood worth 20s.

John de Pateshull, a quarter fee in Little Crawley worth 10s.

William de Bledeton, half a fee in Mershe Gibewyke worth 20s.

William de Birmingham, a quarter fee in Hoggeston and Dorton worth 8s. 6d.

William de Penros, two fees in Ovinges and Merston worth 4s. 6d.

Michs de Cantelupe, half a fee in Eselburne worth 20s.

Robert Pogeys, two fees in Stoke Ditton and Cheselhampton worth 4s. 6d.

Richard de Tours, a quarter fee in Ulton and Stanhope worth 10s.

Nicholas de Eure, a quarter fee in Caldecote worth 10s.

Nicholas de Burton, a fee in Tolthorpe in Rochelond worth 40s.[2]

Richard Engayne, a fee in Werseleye, in the county of Huntingdon, worth 40s.

The Jurors also stated that Tickford Priory was of the foundation of John de Somery's ancestors, and was worth nothing, because the Prior was disposable of at will (dativus).

John de Somery left no issue, and his estates (subject to his widow's dower) devolved upon his two sisters—Margaret, wife of John de Sutton, thirty-two years of age ; and Joan, late the wife of Thomas Botetourt, twenty-nine years of age.

On the subsequent partition of the inheritance Margaret took the Dudley and other estates and Joan the Manor of Newport amongst others.

The Manor had passed into the hands of Joan Botetourt in 1327, for in that year Edward, on the 13th May, made her a grant of a new fair in these words :—

1 In 49 Edward III., in an Inq. post. mortem, it is stated that the Manor of Tolthorp was held of John Boutetort, Baron of Weslegh, by the service of a quarter fee as of the Manor of Newport Pagnell. William de Burton, the owner, was then just dead, and Thomas de Burton was his heir.

"The King to the Archbishops, &c., greeting. Know ye that of our special grace we have granted, and by this our Charter do confirm, unto our faithful Joan Butetourt that she and her heirs may for ever hold a fair once a year at her manor of Newport Paynel, in the County of Buckingham, of ten days' duration, namely, on the eve and on the day of Saint Barnabas the Apostle, and for the eight following days. . . . ."[1]

In 7 Edward III.,[2] on 28th June, there was a commission of oyer and terminer to William de Shareshull Malcolm Chastiloun and John de Wakefield, on complaint by Joan, late the wife of Thomas Butetourt, that whereas she ought to have at her town of Newport Paynel a fair yearly and a market weekly, as she and her ancestors time out of mind have used to do, Richard de Lynford of Shyrington, Richard the Younger his brother, Roger de Cave, John son of Ralph le Taillour of Woketon, Adam Forst, Richard son of John de Cave, Robert Dakeneye, and others assaulted John de Pakynton, John de Shyrington of Newport Paynel, John the Younger his son, Reginald atte Lake, Phillip Williamesman Gully, and William Bole, her servants, when collecting their tolls therein, and compelled the merchants and others to withdraw from the same, and committed other enormities to the great hurt of the complainant.

Joan Bottourt died before February of 12 Edward III., for in that month, at an Inquisition held at Newport, it was found "that Joan, who was late the wife of Thomas Bottourt, held on the day of her death in her Lordship as of fee the Manor of Newport Paynel of the Lord King in capite by the services of one knight's fee." A description of the Manor and of that of Little Linford follows, and the jurors conclude by stating that "John son of Thomas Bottetourt is the next heir of the same Joan, and was nineteen years of age at the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross last past." The inquisition refers to a rent resolute of £6 13s. 4d. then due out of the Manor to Philip de Ayllesbury.

As regards this rent it is stated in the Dodsworth MS. (cxxvi. 41) that Roger de Somery, Knight, formerly seized of the Manor of Newport Paynell, gave an annual rent of 10 marks issuing out of the aforesaid Manor to Walter de Aylesbury and his heirs. He was apparently the father of Philip de Aylesbury, just referred to.

1 Charter Rolls, 1 Edward III., Pars Unica, No. 57.

2 Patent Rolls, 7 Edward III., pt. 1, m. 7d.

Later on, too, in 6 Henry V., in an Inquisition post-mortem, in respect of Thomas Ailesbury, it was found that he was seized of an annual rent of ten marks issuing out of the Mills of Newport or of issues of the same Manor, and that it was held of the Lady Elizabeth of Elynton. Other references will be found later on.

John de Botetourt appears to have been a commander in the French Wars, and married Joyce daughter of William Lord Zouche of Haryngworth.

Their son John was summoned to Parliament[1] from 16 Edward II. to the time of his death in 9 Richard II. He married Matilda daughter of John Lord Grey of Rotherfield, and had by her a daughter, Joyce, who married Hugh Burnel.

In 32 Edward III. John Bottetort of Wesley, Knight, obtained licence from the King to enfeoff his Manor of Newport Paynell to himself and Joyce his wife for life, with remainder to his son John and Matilda (daughter of John de Rotherfeld) his wife, and the heirs of their bodies[2]; and in 33 Edward III. a fine to this effect was levied.

Matilda Botetourt, who subsequently was the wife of Thomas Harcourt Chevalier, died on the 29th day of January, 1394, seized of the Manor, and by inquisition it was found that "Joyce, then the wife of Hugh Burnell, Knight, was the daughter of the said Matilda, begotten between the said Matilda and the said John, son of John Bottourt, lately her husband, and that the said Joyce was the next heir of Matilda and John son of John, by virtue of the said fine, and was of the age of 26 years."[3]

By virtue of another fine levied in the 9th year of Richard II. the Manor seems to have been assured, after the death of Matilda wife of Thomas Harcourt, to Hugh Burnell and Joyce his wife, and the heirs of the said Joyce.

By Inquisition taken at Newport Paynell, on the Friday next before the Festival of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the 8th year of Henry IV., before Edmund Brudenell, the Escheator of the Lord King in the County of Buckingham, the

1 On 28th September, 1380, the Bailiffs of Barnet, St. Albans, Dunstable, Wooburne, Stoney Stratford, and Newport Pagnell were commanded to take care that sufficient provisions were brought into their several towns for the supply of all persons going to the Parliament about to be holden at Northampton. Rymer's Foedera.

2 Pat. 32 Edward III., m. 13 or 17. Dodsworth MS., ii. 65, cxxii. 116.

3 Inq. post-mortem, 17 Richard II., No. 32.

Jurors, after setting out the last-mentioned fine, say that Joyce Burnell died on the day of the Circumcision of the Lord last past, and that on the day of her death she held the Manors of Little Linford and Newport Paynell, jointly with Hugh Burnell, her husband.

They also say that the said Manors were held of the Lord King in capite by military services. . . . . and that the Manor of Newport Paynel was worth per annum, without reprisals, £40.

The Jury also found that Joyce the wife of Adam de Peshale, Knight, Matilda Buttetourt, Agnes Buttetourt, Maurice de Berkeley, Agnes and Joyce Wykes, daughters of Joan lately the wife of John de Wykes, were the blood relatives and next of kin of Joyce Burnell; and go on to state that Joyce the wife of Adam de Peshale, Matilda Buttetourt, and Agnes Buttetourt were the sisters of John Buttetourt, the father of Joyce Burnell, of whom the said Matilda was a nun, and avowedly in the Abbey of Pollesworth, in the County of Warwick, and Agnes Buttetourt was a nun, and avowedly in the Abbey of Elmestowe, in the County of Bedford; and Maurice de Berkeley, son of Maurice, son of Katherine sister of John Buttetourt, father of the said Joyce; and Agnes and Joyce Wykes, daughters of Joan daughter of Alicia Hiryell, sister of John Buttetourt, father of the said Joyce. It is stated in conclusion that Joyce Peshale, Matilda and Agnes Buttetourt, were more than forty years of age, Maurice de Berkeley more than seven years old, Agnes Wykes over nine years, and Joyce Wykes over seven.

In 3 Henry V. Richard Lord Grey of Wilton, son of Henry Grey, released all right to a rent of £6 4s. 4d., in Eton, Evershold, Newport, Lynford, Papeworth, and Weld to John Boneye, clerk, and Robert Auferton.[1]

Hugh Burnell died on the 27th November, 1421, and on the Friday next before the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the 8th year of the reign of King Henry, the Fifth after the Conquest, an Inquisition[2] was taken at Stonystretford, before William Whappelode, the King's Escheator for Bucks, for the purpose of enquiring into the estates held by Hugh Burnell on the day of his death. The Jurors found that at that time he held no estates within the Escheator's jurisdiction, but

1 Close Rolls, 3 Henry V., No. 19. Dodsworth MS., xxxvi., fol. 51.

2 Inquisition post-mortem, 8 Henry V., No. 116.

said that Hugh Burnell was once seised in his lordship as of fee of the Manors of Newport Paynell and Little Lynford, with all their appurtenances, together with the advowsons of the two Chantries in Newport Paynell, and that the Manors with the advowsons, were a long time before his death by his charter by the name of Hugh Burnell, Knight, Lord of Holgate and of Wesleigh, given, conceded, and confirmed to John de Beauchamp, Lord of Bergevenny, Phillip Morgon, then Bishop of Worcester, John Bathe, clerk, Bartholomew Brokesby, William Botiller of Yatton, Thomas Harewell, Nicholas Saucer, Esquire, and Richard Pepur, then deceased, their heirs and assigns for ever, and that the grantees were well seised thereof. The Jurors also said that the Manors were held of the King in capite, viz., the Manor of Newport by the services of a third part of a Knight's fee, and that the value thereof, without reprisals, was £20 per annum. In conclusion they stated that Joyce the wife of Thomas Erdyngton the Younger, Katherine Burnell, and Margaret the wife of Edmund Hungerford were blood relations and next heirs of the said Hugh that is daughters of Edward Burnell, Knight, son of the said Hugh Joyce being over twenty-four years of age, Katherine over fourteen, and Margaret over eleven.

On the Friday next after the Feast of the Epiphany, in 8 Henry V., there was, however, an Inquisition taken at Wonge county Bucks, before the Escheator, the Jurors then stating that Hugh Burnell, Chevalier, held for his life when he died the third part of the Manors of Little Lyneford and Neweport Paynell reversion to Maurice son of Maurice de Berkeley, then under age, and in the custody of the King. The fine of 9 Richard II. is quoted, and it is stated that after the death of Matilda Harcourt Hugh and Joyce Burnell entered upon and were seised of the Manors, and afterwards that, by virtue of the fine, Joyce Burnell died seised of a third part of the Manors; that Hugh survived Joyce, and of the same third part died seised; and that Maurice Berkeley is heir of Joyce Burnell, and at the time of the death of Hugh was over nineteen years of age.

From a fine quoted in Madox's Formulare Anglicanum (p. 232) it would appear that Adam de Peshale and Joyce his wife had, in 10 Henry V., become possessed of a third part of the Manors of Newport and Linford, which had been held by Hugh Burnell for his life, and that they limited the same to their heirs male,

remainder to William de Birmyngham and Joan his wife and their heirs with remainders over.

The Manor next passed to the Botelers, Earls of Ormond.

James Boteler, Earl of Ormond, who was commonly called the "White Earl," was as early as 1407, and when he was still under age, appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland, and later several times acted as Lord Lieutenant. In 1447 he was accused by the Earl of Shrewsbury of high treason, but the proceedings were quashed by the King. He died on 23rd August, 1452, and was buried in the Church of the Abbey of St. Mary in Dublin. By his first wife,[1] Johan, daughter of Gerald, fifth Earl of Kildare, he had issue three sons James, John and Thomas, who were successively Earls of Ormond, and two daughters; but by his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of William Beauchamp Lord Bergavenny, and widow of John Lord Grey of Wilton, he had no issue.

James Boteler, son of the White Earl, was born 24th November, 1420, and knighted with his brother John, at Leicester, by Henry VI., whose supporter he was.

He became possessed of the Manor by a deed dated the Saturday before the Feast of St. Martin the Bishop, 15 Henry VI., 1436, whereby John Bathe, clerk, Robert Darcy, Bartholomew Brokesby, Henry Fylongley, Water Kebbyl, Henry Brokesby, esquires, William Newport, clerk, and John Bultus conveyed to Henry Burton and John Daundsey, junior, the Manors of Newport Pagnell and Linford Parva, amongst others, to hold for four years and afterwards to enure to James son and heir to James Earl of Ormond and his heirs male, remainder to John Botiller second son of the Earl and his heirs male, remainder to Thomas the third son and his heirs male, and remainder to the Earl's right heirs.[2]

The estate is said to have come to the Earl on the death of his grandmother Joane, the widow of William Beauchamp Lord Bergavenny, whose property it seems to have been, and who in 5 Henry VI. is referred to as holding Newport Manor.[3] By her will, dated 10th January, 1434, in which she describes herself as Lady of Bergavenny, she gives certain specific legacies to Sir James, son and heir to the Earl of Ormonde, and directs £500 if

1 Dictionary of National Biography. The authorities differ as to which wife had issue and which lady the Earl first married. See Burke's Peerage and Carte's Ormonde.

2 History of Life of James Duke of Ormonde, by Thomas Carte, 1736.

3 Inq. post mortem, 5 Hy. VI., No. 16. Thos. Caldecote. Vide account of Caldecote post.

necessary to be spent about the defence of the title to the lands given and assigned him, which are not however described or further referred to, but are doubtless those assured by the deed of 1436, several of the parties thereto being her executors.[1] From the will it appears that Sir James was to be regarded as of age when he was 20, and this explains the delay of four years vesting named in the deed.

For the Earl's adherence to the Lancastrian cause he was created a Peer of England on 8th July, 1449, by the title of Earl of Wiltshire. In 1451 he was made Lord Deputy of Ireland; in May, 1453, Lord Lieutenant; and in March, 1455, Lord High Treasurer of England. He was with the King at the first battle of St. Albans, and, the Yorkists being victorious, had to flee, casting his armour in a ditch, but in 37 Henry VI. he was restored to his post of Treasurer, and the next year created a Knight of the Garter. He commanded a wing of the Royal army at the Battle of Wakefield, but on the 29th March, 1461, he was taken prisoner at the Battle of Towton, in which he was engaged, and beheaded at Newcastle on 1st May. He was thrice married, but left no issue by any of his wives.

He was with his brothers John and Thomas attainted by the Parliament, which met on the 4th November in that year, and at an Inquisition,[2] held at Newport Paynell on the last day of January in the first year of the reign of Edward IV., the Jurors found that James late Earl of Wiltshire was at the time of his death seised in his Lordship as of fee of the Manor and Lordship of Newport Paynell, together with the Manor of Little Lynford, parcel of the Manor of Newport, to his own use, and that the Manor of Newport was worth, without reprisals, £33 6s. 8d. per annum, and that Richard Earl of Warwick and Salisbury was in receipt of the profits of the Manor.

On 27th April 2 Edward IV.[3] the King, in consideration of the good, acceptable, and faithful services of his most dear relative Richard Neville Earl of Warwick, granted to the Earl the Manor or Lordship of Newport Panell, which was the property of James late Earl of Wiltshire.

On the downfall and death of the Kingmaker on the 14th April,

1 Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i., p. 240.

2 Inq. post mortem, 1 Edward IV., No. 29, James Earl of Wiltshire attainted.

3 Pat. 2 Edward IV., part 1, m. 12, 13.

1471, at the Battle of Barnet, his estates reverted to the Crown, and in 12 Edward IV. Newport Manor became the property of George Duke of Clarence, who had, on 11th July, 1469, married Isabel one of the daughters of the Kingmaker, at St. Nicholas, Calais.

The Earl of Warwick's widow, after his death, lived in great penury, as all her estates were taken from her by Parliament and settled upon her two daughters Isabel and Ann, the latter of whom married Richard Duke of Gloucester.[1]

The Duke of Clarence died on the 18th February, 1477, being, as is popularly supposed, drowned in a butt of wine. He was attainted in 1477.

The Manor having reverted to the Crown, was restored by Edward IV. to John sixth Earl of Ormonde, brother and heir of the fifth Earl. He died in 1478 unmarried, and was succeeded by his brother Thomas seventh Earl of Ormond. On the 26th June, 1494, apparently to perfect the Earl's title and to bar any claim by the Birmynghams, a deed,[2] addressed to all the faithful of Christ, was executed by Fulc Birmyngham, clerk, late Rector of Cropryde, in the County of Oxford, brother of William Birmyngham, knight, deceased, the father of William Birmyngham, esquire, then in religion, whereby Fulc Birmyngham quitted claim to Thomas Earl of Ormond, in his (the Earl's) full possession and seisin then being, and to his heirs all the right, estate, title, claim, and demand of him the said Fulc of and in the Manor of Newport Paynell and Little Linford.

In 1483, 14th May, 1 Edward V., there was a royal letter "to Edmond Holt, to advoide the keping of the parc of Newport Paynell and the bailliship ther, and suffre Thomas Hargill to occupie them during the kingis pleasure, uppon payne of his alliegeaunce."[3]

In 1496 Thomas Vrmeston was appointed Master of the Hospital by Dom John Grey, by virtue of a grant for the next turn from Thomas Earl of Ormond, "true founder, collater, and patron."

The Earl was a member of the Privy Council of England. In 1492 he was chief Chamberlain to the Queen, and the same year was sent as Ambassador to the Court of France. He was

1 History of Life of James Duke of Ormonde. By Thomas Carte. 1736.

2 Madox's Formulare Anglicanum, pp. 395-96.

3 Crown Grants Edward V., Camden Society.

summoned the 14th October, 1495, to the English Parliament as a Baron by the title of Thomas Ormond de Rocheford; and in 1497 went as Ambassador to the Duke of Burgundy.

He married Anne daughter and heir of Sir Richard Hankford, and died 3rd August, 1515. He was buried in the church of St. Thomas of Acon, now called Mercer's Chapel, Cheapside, London. He left two daughters—Anne, who married Sir James St. Leger, and Margaret, who married Sir William Bullen, Knight.[1]

The St. Legers, by this marriage, became, on the death of the Earl, possessed of this Manor, and the Lady Anne, surviving her husband, was apparently for many years Lady of the Manor in her own right, and, as such, presented the Mastership of the Hospital to Thomas Thornham in 1529.

St. George St. Leger, her son, was Sheriff of Devon in 1531, and married Anne daughter of Sir Edmund Knevet. His son, Sir John St. Leger, who was also Sheriff in 1562, married Catherine second daughter of Sir George Nevil Lord Abergavenny.

By an Act of Parliament, 33 Henry VIII., the Manor of Newport with its appurtenances was annexed to the newly-created Honor of Ampthill, and in 34 or 35 Henry VIII., apparently consequent on such Act, Henry VIII., in consideration of the surrender to him by Sir John St. Leger of the Lordship and Borough of Newport Pagnell, the Manors of Great and Little Linford, and the Advowson of Great Linford Church, granted to John, in exchange, Canonsleigh Priory and Iddesleigh Manor, Devonshire, and other properties.[2]

On the 7th March, 4 Edward VI.,[3] the King, in fulfilment and performance of the will and last wish of his most dear Father, Henry VIII., lately King of England, and by the advice of his Council, gave and granted to his most dear sister the Lady Elizabeth, daughter of his said Father, for her life, the Manor of Newporte Panell, being parcel of the possessions of the Honor of Ampthill, and the water mill in Newporte Panell and all the privileges, tolls, and customs of the market there, and the park of Newporte Panell and all the does and deer within the park and freedom of the park within the park.

The grant was, however, surrendered by Elizabeth, and it was

1 Sir William's granddaughter Anne was the mother of Queen Elizabeth.

2 Particulars for Grants, 34 Henry VIII., No. 1060.

3 Patent Rolls, 4 Edward VI., part 3, mem. 25.

cancelled on the 23rd April, 5 Edward VI.

During the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth the Manor appears to have remained parcel of the Honor of Ampthill, but there were various grants and leases of property in the parish during the latter reign.

In the time of Henry VIII., and after he had acquired the Manor by virtue of the above-mentioned exchange with John St. Leger, a difficulty appears to have arisen as to the payment of the rent of Ten marks already referred to, and which was then payable to Humphrey Stafford, of Kirby, Northants, Esquire, the son and heir of Sir Humphrey Stafford, then late of Blatherwick, in the same county, Knight. Stafford thereupon stated in a petition[1] that the rent of which he and his ancestors were seised came out of one Water-mill in the Manor of Newport Pagnell; that his ancestors might lawfully have distrained for the same in the said mill or in the market-place of Newport; that he could by no means attain to the possession of the original deed of the first commencement "bycause that the evidences . . . . were so sperkelede abrode by the occasion of the attayne of his graundfather for holding with Kyng Richard the thridde and his Manor of Middleton Keynes thereby gyven away by King Henry the vijth unto Sr. Edward Poynings and did but lately revert again" to his father by the death of the said Edward Poynings without heirs male; that he had therefore no means to prove the rent-charge but by books of account of certain officers found after the decease of his ancestors; that the rent was always paid to them, and they were never driven to distrain; and concluded by praying that certain honest persons might be examined as to the truth of his statement.

As a result an Inquiry was held, and John Annesley deposed that "when the old ladye Seyntleger appoynted and admytted him her bailyf of the manor of Newport Pannell the same lady Seyntleger did declare and say unto the said deponent these words following: — 'Annesley, there is an ancytie of vj., li. xiijs. iiijd. by yere to be paid owte of my manor of Newport Pannell unto my cosyn Sir Humfray Stafford as to his Manor of Midleton Keynes. I will and charge you to paye the same byfore the payment of myn own rent.' Off what nature or kind the rent is the deponent knoweth not."

1 Court of Augmentations, Vol. 1, 112.

Thomas Wadlow, of Newport, aged 74, deposed that the rent had been paid for fifty years, and that at the first entry of Sir Edward Poynings the rent was denied by one Thomas Jefforne, then bayly of Newport, and that thereupon the bayliff of Sr. Edward of his manor of Midleton Keynes distrained in a certain pasture ground called Bury Field, parcel of the Manor of Newport.

The Commissioners moreover testified to having seen an acquittance dated 24th April, 30 Henry VIII., given by the Midleton bailiff to Annesley for half a year's rent due at the feast of "th'annunciation of o^{r} lady" then last past.

In face of this evidence and finding the payment of the rent was resumed.

On 25th March, 1572,[1] a dispute arose as to the spoliations of the Northe Mills by James Annesley (son of George), Matthew Annesley, and others, and John Conye going with other honest men at the request of John Harley, servant to Mr. Justice Weston, did "seye ye spoile and dekeye ther made." The "spoiling" seems to have been in process at Conye's first visit about 7 a.m., and when he went again about noon he made a list of the things taken away, which is so long that it looks as if none of the machinery was left.

The Corn Mills of Newport had been leased by John St. Leger to Robert Annesley for 31 years, at a rent of £7, but as from Lady Day, 1571, or other the determination of the St. Leger lease the Queen demised the two water-mills to William Cocks. There seems little doubt, therefore, that the Annesleys lease having terminated March, 1572, they were taking care to leave as little as they could for their successor.

The proceedings were instituted by the Queen, and the depositions in the matter taken at Newport on the 9th April, 1572.

In the first year of James I.,[2] on the 19th September, the King, amongst other estates, granted for her life to his most dear Consort the Lady Anne, Queen of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, in full compensation of her jointure and dowry, the Lordship and Manor of Newport Pannell, lately parcel of the possessions of the Honor of Ampthill.

In 1609, on the 8th August, there was a complete Survey of the Manor taken on the Oath of the Tenants there. It is of an

1 Exchequer Depositions, 14 Elizabeth, No. 2.

2 Patent Rolls, 1 Jac. I., pt. 20.

extremely interesting character. The Survey, after stating that the yearly rents of the free tenants amounted to £11 14s. 4d., and those of the Customary Tenants to £11 10s. 3d., sets out the demises affecting the Manor, the last item under that head being as follows:—

"The Bailiff of the Borough of Newport aforesaid for the time being claims to hold by custom or prescription the Tolls and Profits of one Fair, to be held on the Feast of St. Barnabas yearly, and the Tolls and Profits of one Market likewise to be held on Saturday weekly. And eight Butchers' Shambles in the High Street of Newport aforesaid. Rent thereof to the Lady the Queen by the Year £3, yearly value to be demised £6 13s. 4d."

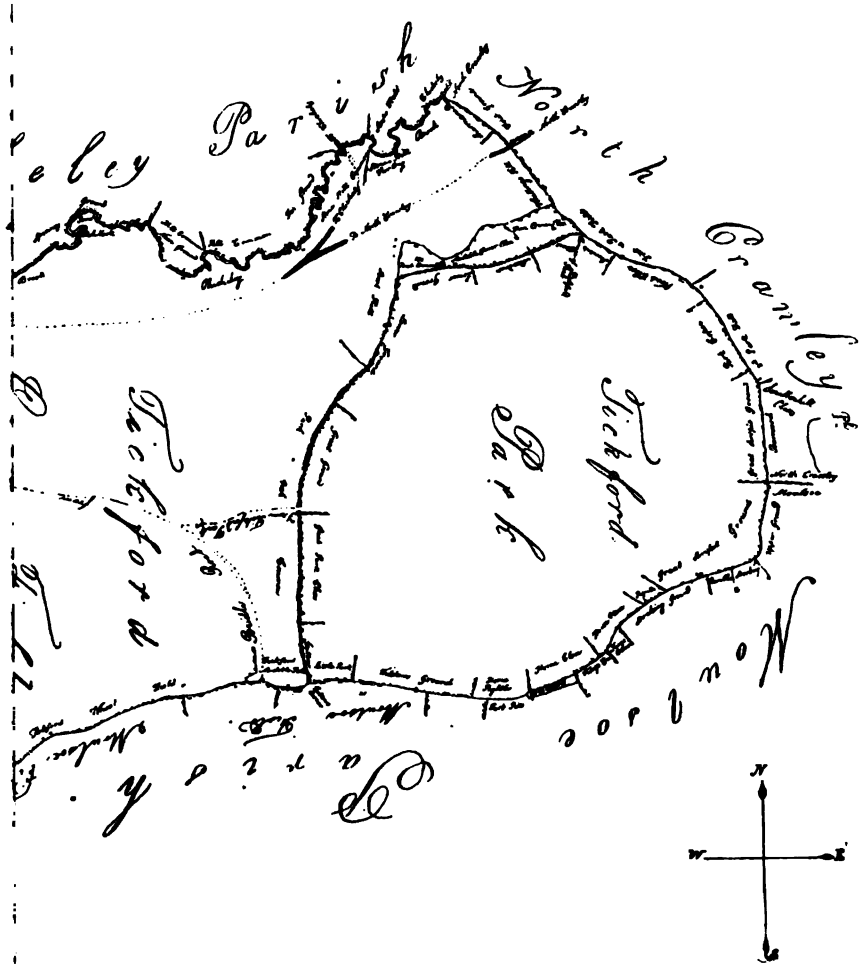
Then comes a list of "Rents called Certainties," viz.:—

Rents issuing from Northmerston and Ovinge by the year, 20s. 1d.; from Caldecote, 4s.; from Astwood with Eckney and Rokell, 15s.; Chicheley, 7s.; Emberton, 13s. 4d.; and Crawley, 9s. 8d.

The "Reprises" were:—

"For the Bailiff's Fee for the year, £4. For Rents Resolute to Lady Stafford by the year £6 13s. 4d.

The Jurors then go on to say "that the Metes and Bounds of the Manor of Newport Pannell extend themselves in manner and form following (that is to say):—Beginning at the North Corner of a certain piece of pasture called Clapperleys next the close called the Coningree Close, parcel of the demesnes of the late Priory of Tickford, and from thence by the South side of the brook called Tickford Brook, otherwise Chicheley Brook, unto the bounds of the Lordship or Manor of North Crawley; East by the space of one thousand paces. And from thence by the West side of the Common Field of North Crawley aforesaid unto Tickford Park, and so by the East side of the Park aforesaid unto the Wood called Barewood and so unto the Close called Stocking, South by the space of one thousand paces and three Furlongs. And from thence by the South side of the Park aforesaid unto Gallow corner, and from thence by the North side of the Common Field called Moulsoe Field unto the River called Willen Water, West by the space of 1000 paces, and from thence by the Middle of the River aforesaid unto the upper end of Caldecott Mill Dam, also West by the space of three furlongs. And from thence by the South bank of the



Tickford Park
Tickford
North Crawley
N
W
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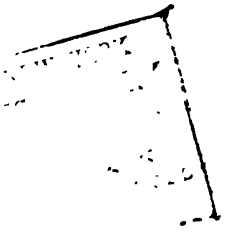


River called the Old Brook unto Caldecott Mill Bridge. And from thence by the middle of the River unto the Middle of a certain Meadow called Sowmead, and so by the ancient course of the River aforesaid, now being only a Ditch surrounding a certain piece of Meadow formerly being parcel of the said Meadow called Sowmead, and so unto the River aforesaid, and from thence by the middle of the said River unto the North end of Sowmead aforesaid, North by the space of two furlongs. And so by the middle of the said River unto the farther end of the Close called Caldecott Leaze, also North by the space of three Furlongs. And from thence by the North side of Caldecott Fields unto the Close called Tongwell Close, lying in Caldecott West by the space of 500 paces. And therefrom by the East side of Great Linford Fields unto Little Lynford Bridge, North by the space of 1000 paces. And from thence by the South bank of the River called Linches River unto the West End of the West Meadow, and so by the Mill called Goathurst Mill and the North side of the West Meadow aforesaid unto the East End of the same Meadow, East by the space of 500 paces. And from thence by the Middle of the River called Salledge Water otherwise the Ouze, unto the Meadow called the King's Holme, and from thence by the South side of Lathbury Fields unto North Bridge. And from thence unto the lower end of Castle Meadow, East by the space of 1000 paces. And from thence unto the South End of Tickford Bridge, East by the space of two furlongs. And from thence by Tickford Street unto the Upper End thereof. And from thence by the South Side of the Priory aforesaid unto Clapperleaze first specified by the space of 500 paces. Within which Metes and Bounds there are divers Lands and Tenements lying dispersedly belonging and appertaining to the late Priory of Tickford. And divers other Lands and Tenements held of our Lord the King as of his Manor of East Greenwich in the county of Kent."

Further the Jurors presented certain facts respecting the Hospital and Almshouses, and that "there is within the Borough a Court Leet or View of Frankpledge to be held on Monday next after Pentecost yearly for the Lord the King."

"And that there is a Court within the Borough aforesaid called Unbodmot, to be held four times in the year (to wit), Monday next after the Feast of St. Michael, Monday next after the Feast of the Epiphany, Monday next after the Feast of the Annuncia-

tion, and Monday next after the Feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist, and that the profits of the same belong to the Lady the Queen."

"And there is another Court there called a Port Court, to be held continually on Monday in every other week, and the profits thereof likewise belong to the Lady the Queen."

At the end of the extent, following the signatures of the Jurors, are the following very interesting "Remembrances:"—

"Note.—That if a Burgess die, at his death the Lord shall have the best quick Cattle, and for default thereof Then the best of his moveable goods in the Name of a Heriott.

"Also the Tenants claim to hold freely within the Borough their Land as well Burgesses as other Freeholders by Socage Tenure, and their Heirs shall pay but 16d. for a Relief whatsoever their Rent be, and likewise 16d. for every alienation.

"Also if a Socageholder without the Borough do die he shall pay no Heriott, but only his Heirs shall double the yearly Rent for his Relief. But for every Alienation of the said Freeholders the Purchaser shall pay for every Arrest 6d. fine.

"Also the Copyholders have Estates for 61 years[1] or under, at the pleasure of the Steward, claiming their Fines to be certain upon renewing their Estates three years' rent, and upon surrender of an Estate and newtaking the same, where no years are added these to pay but one year's rent for fine.

"They pay no Heriots.

"They claim to be allowed Timber for repair of their Tenements by custom.

"If any Copyholder commit any waste as by Decay of Houses or Wastes of Wood or Trees contrary to the custom he shall forfeit his Copyhold.

The value in general by just relation of	Arable Land	5s.	the Acre.
	Pasture	13s. 4d.	
	Meadow	10s.	

In February, 10 James I., there was a grant of the Manor and its profits and the office of bailiff to Edward Lord Bruce and his

1 This point is referred to in certain Chancery Proceedings (Ser. 2, 315) on the 29th June, 1620, between Agatha Knight and Thomas Nicholls, it being therein stated that the estates of the copyholders were only to them and their assigns for the term of three score and one years. Also that there was no custom in the Manor that a widow should be endowed of a third part of her late husband's copyholds.

assigns for his life or the lives of Lord Bruce, William Cavendish Knight, and Thomas Bruce, his brothers.[1]

By Letters Patent dated 11th February, 7 James I., the two water mills called the Cornemills of Newport Pagnell, with all the rights, were granted to Edward Ferrers and Francis Philips and their heirs, to be held in socage, rendering £7 therefor annually.

In 20 James I. disputes as to the "Greist Mills" arose, and amongst the depositions then taken by Special Commission is one by Thomas Richardson of Newport, Tailor, aged 70, who "saith that[2] he doth knowe the three water corne milles in Neweport Pannell, and that abowte threescore yeares sithence when he knewe them there were but twoe milles, and he saith that aboute ffiftie yeares sithence there was a thirde wheele added to that parte of one of the said Milles wch is next to the meadow called the Monkes Holmes, and he saith that the said three Milles are called Newport Milles, and he hath alwaies taken them to be within the parishe of Newport. And he saithe that Mrs. Weston[3] caused the saide third wheele to be added, and thereof made a fulling mille at the desire of ould John Harley, her bayliff, whose sonne was a fuller and occupied the same as a ffullinge mille aboute twoe years and was then converted into a wheate myll, and hath ever since soe continewed, and the other twoe milles were then occupied by the said Bayliff as Corn Milles."

George Fynell, of Newport, weaver, aged 64, said "That before the said ffulling Mill was built in old George Ansley's tyme sheepe were used to be pynned when men came to wash them in the place where the ffulling mill was after erected, but he knoweth not that any man ever payd ought therefor or asked any leave therefor of any man."

The object of the proceedings was apparently to prove the erection of the mill an encroachment, but the Mill is referred to in

1 10 Jac. I., Pt. 1, No. 13, 2 Exchequer Special Commission, 20 Jac. I.

3 Elizabeth Weston, of Chicheley, whose first husband was Anthony Cave, by her will dated 24th July, 1577, gave to Griffith Hampden and Jerome Weston, her sons-in-law, all her interest in the water mills in Newport. The will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in November, 1577—Chester Memorials. In 6 James I. it is stated, in the Survey already referred to, that Sir Richard Weston claimed to hold by Letters Patent, "Three water grain mills under one roof called the North Mills, with the House of the Miller adjoining, of four spaces and a close of pasture adjoining with the Banks there, containing by estimation 3 acres. And the Fishing of the Pond there." For this he paid £7 to the Receiver, but the yearly value to be demised was stated to be £36 6s. 8d.

subsequent grants, and was evidently left.

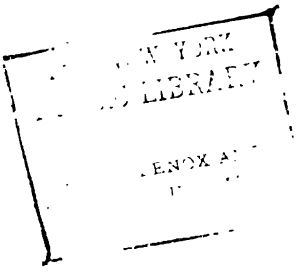
On the 15th June in the 22nd year of his reign James I., the Queen being then dead, assigned to Sir Henry Hobart, Sir James Fullarton, Sir John Walter, and Sir Thomas Trevor, amongst other things, the Honor of Ampthill and the Manors and Rights thereto appertaining for a term of 99 years from the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then last past in trust for Charles.

On the 25th June 3 Charles I. the surviving assignees, Sir Henry Hobart having died, assigned the Manor of Newport Pannell, with its rights, to Edmund Connie, Thomas Barnes, and Arthur Humphrey, gentlemen, for the remainder of the term of 99 years, subject to the payment to the King during the residue of a term of 31 years granted to Henry Atkins of a yearly rent of £69 18s. 3d. and one pound of pepper, and after the residue of the 31 years of the yearly rent of £75 8s. 4½d. and one pound of pepper.

On the 6th August in the same year the King granted the reversion of the Manor to Sir Francis Annesley, in consideration of a certain sum of £343 10s. 10d. paid by Sir Francis Annesley, and of £837 13s. 4d. paid by Sir Francis, Roger Nichol, John Parker, and John Chibnall, subject to the payment of a yearly rent of £75 8s. 4½d. and a pound of pepper after the expiration of the term of 99 years. During the term of 31 years, too, Sir Francis Annesley covenanted to pay 20s. payable to the Steward of the Manor, £4 payable yearly to the Bailiff, and £6 13s. 4d. issuing out of the Manor for a rent resolute to the Heir of Sir Humphrey Stafferton, Knight, the King agreeing, after the expiration of the 31 years, to pay the rent of £6 13s. 4d.

The grant was in free and common socage. The particulars of the properties and rights included therein are set out at length. They included the rents of assize of the free tenants, amounting to £7 12s. 9½d. and one pound of pepper by the year; the rents certain of £3 9s. 1d.; the tolls of fairs or markets held within the Manor Town or Borough of Newport Pannell, amounting to £3; a cottage near the "North Mill" in Marsh-end; all waste ground and soil within the town, with liberty to erect thereon in fit places Stables and penns for Beasts and all manner of moveable Stalls and Booths for Pedlars, Victuallers, and others; the lands holden at the will of the Lord of the yearly value of 4s. 8d.; the yearly rents of 4s. 8d. issuing out of the same lands; the profits of the Court of the Manor, valued at £4 18s. 6½d. by the year; the

SIR FRANCIS ANNESLEY.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Manor place of Waterhall, then or late in the tenure of John Fortescue, Esquire; the common Bakehouse; all that water called Lovens which extends itself from the Bridge of Calcott Mill unto the common water which leads to the Mill called a Fulling Mill, and all that half of the water which extends itself from Calcott Mill Damms unto the outer part of the land of the Lord of Tickford; the Fishery called Bury Water in Tickford; the Fishery called Salegewater in March-end; a tenement near the "Bayer Ditch;" and mansion houses called Tynall Copy and Bareditch Copy. All these premises were, says the grant, "mentioned to be parcel of the Honor of Ampthill, and afterwards to have been assigned to our aforesaid late most dear mother as parcell of her Jointure and afterwards were granted to us before our accession to the Crown of England."

The Grant confers on Sir Francis Annesley the right as well during the residue of the term of 99 years as after the end of the same to hold Courts Leet, Views of Frankpledge, Lawdays, and to have Assize and Assay of Bread, Wine, and Beer, Chattels, Waifs, Estrays, &c. It expressly excepts, however, the Water Mills, the whole herbage of the Park of Tickford, the whole Park of Tickford, the lands and tenements in Newport Pannell, of the yearly rent of £4 11s. 1d., granted to Robert Earl of Leicester and his heirs by the Lady Elizabeth, late Queen of England, in the 16th year of her reign, the nomination and presentation of the Master of the Hospital within the Manor of Newport Pannell and the Foundation and Right of Patronage of the same Hospital, all Knights' fees, all advowsons, and mines of lead and tin.

In January, 1650, steps appear to have been taken by the Commonwealth officials to sell the £75 8s. 4½d. fee farm rent reserved to the Crown Trustees, and particulars of the properties on which it was chargeable were accordingly taken in minute detail. Practically they are identical with those included in the Grant to Sir Francis Annesley, and the premises excepted from his grant are stated to be free from the charge. Incidentally it appears that the grant for 31 years to Henry Adkins, referred to in the already mentioned Assignment of 3 Charles I. was made by Indenture dated 26th February, 22 James I., and expired at Michaelmas, 1655.

The rent dealt with was £73 14s. 4½d., as a fee farm rent equal to the difference and issuing out of one rood and three closes in

Tickford, sometimes Thomas Horton's, and other lands then late in the tenure of John Kirkland, and amounting to 17s., till Michaelmas, 1655, and from that time for ever of 34s. had already been purchased by James Mayo, gent., according to a particular of 29th April, 1650.

The pound of pepper was not arrented, because it was formerly paid to the Auditor to his office belonging.

The particular is endorsed "Particular, Richard Wagstaffe, of Revensdon, in ye County of Bedford, esq. Contracted 28 Jan., 1650, and 6 Feb. v°jxxiij li. ixs. iiijd. ob.[1]

In 1657 disputes arose with reference to the tolls and bounds of the fairs and markets, and on 28th November, 1657, a Commission was issued, the plaintiffs being Arthur Annesley and Mark Slingsby, and the defendants Tho. Cony, Tho. Kilpin, Sam Coningham, John Sam, and James Davis.[2] On 12th June, 1657, interrogatories were administered and depositions taken at Newport Pagnell, from which it appears that the claim of the Lord of the Manor was for rent of the ground, some three or four yards, in front of the burgages of the Defendants, which ground they had for some forty years past used for the erection of stalls on market and fair days and taken the profits, the tenants paying a "shew penny" in money or kind for shewing their goods.

Ambrose Sam deposed that the Green, the North-end and other places were used as waste ground, except those who held of the Lord of Tickford Manor, who refused to pay anything for the ground before their doors except a penny apiece for shew of wares, and such ground was always repaired at owner's charge. Arthur Johnson, who had been the bailiff's servant, stated that he knew the ground of Mathias Conny on the south side of his messuage, and that the messuage abutted upon the street, the shambles being over against part of the same, and that the grounde was part of the street and market place, and that the women's market had been kept on part of the ground before the messuage, and that a shew penny was paid by everyone that brought goods to be sold there, or the value thereof in fruit, and that there was paid a halfpenny or the value thereof in fruit for one basket of fruit and a penny or pennyworth for a horseload of fruit, and that there had been paid

1 Fee farm rents. Bucks, 3, 27.

2 Exchequer Depositions, Commonwealth, 1657-8. Hil., No. 24, Bucks.

to the occupiers of the Tolls by the "Poulters" that brought or sold wares in the market on every market day a shew penny or Tenne pence a quarter, and that those who kept stalls there paid a shew penny on market days and on fair days a penny for pitching their wares and a penny shew. Thomas Sibthorp, alias Butcher, said he knew the ground which extended from the messuage in the tenure of the defendant Thomas Kilpin to that late in the tenure of John Wilks, and that Conny's messuage abutted on the street and on the messuage of William Conneham, and that Haberdashers and other chapmen on fair days paid twelve pence.

In 36 Charles II. there was another dispute, this time between Jeremiah Smalridge and John Latham, William Weale, Thomas Day, Anne Carter, widow, and John Wilkinson, and depositions were taken at Newport Pagnell on 27th January, 1684. The contention of the defendants at that time was that the rents due were payable to the owners of adjoining premises and not to the Lord of the Manor. George Page, of Petsoe Manor,said he placed a basket upon a bench adjoining the house in the occupation of John Wilkinson, but owned by James Britton, for sale of butter, cheese, and eggs on market days, and paid the tenants of the house 1s. 6d. per annum. John Prestman, of Newport, gent., aged 84, corroborated as to a similar practice in respect of old Thos. Betts' house, and said that his father and himself after him was possessed of a house called ye Sarisan's head oppositele situated to the house in question. Anthony Kitte referred to the practice of the defendant Day, who was a "Traunter," of selling grain in the market, which he believed was bought at Wellingburg, the toll being about five or six shillings a year.[1]

It is curious to note from a MS. of about 1812 that the tolls or payments taken on Market or Fair days by the Lord of the Manor were at that time as under :—

	£	s.	d.
Sheep .....For all sheep exposed for sale, penned or not, per score		1	0
For all sheep, if sold, per score...			8
The seller paying ye penning and buyer ye toll.			
Cows, &c...All neat cattle (except bulls and calves) if sold, p^r^ head			2

1 Exchequer Depositions, 36-7, Charles II., Hil., No. 19, Bucks.

		£	s.	d.
	A bull, if sold			4
Hogs	.....All hogs sold at a fair, each			2
	Do. at a market, each...			1
	A boar at any time			4
	A sow and pigs (if they suck)			4
	Otherwise, per head			1
Horses	...All horses (except stallions) sold			4
	A stallion sold			8
	If swapt, each horse			4
Hawkers	...All hawkers and pedlars for shew, each ...			1
	If they pitch			2
	Butter or eggs (if not sold in ye market), fowls and garden stuff, Pitch and Shew ...			2
	Stalls upon the lord's ground, by ye foot in length.			
	Stalls upon private property ... ... — If occupied by proprietor			1
	Stalls upon private property ... ... — If occupied by any other person ...			2
	All caravans and carts, shews, riding schools, &c., &c., from 6d. to...	1	1	0
Corn	.....If sold by ye load, 1 quart out of every load of 5 bushel, and if by ye Quarter, 1 Quart out of every Quarter.			

N.B.—All tolls for cattle are payable by the Buyer the day before and day after any fair, and extend to Lathbury, and power is given to the Collector to detain anything until ye tolls are paid.

Sir Francis Annesley died in 1660, having been created Baron Mount Norris and Viscount Valentia, and the Manor came into the hands of his son Arthur.

In January 15 Charles II.[1] the rent of £75 8s. 4½d. and a pound of pepper reserved from the Grant of Sir Francis Annesley was given by the King to his Queen, Catherine, for life in part satisfaction of her dower.

A little later, in 22 Charles II.,[2] there is a further document which, after mentioning an Act passed in that year (in the which

1 Pat. Roll, 15 Charles II., pt. 14.
2 Pat. Roll, 22 Charles II., pt. 2, Roll 1.

Act was a recital "That wee for the better enabling of Ourselfe to pay such Debts owing att Interest whereof wee should find reason to hasten the Discharge were minded to grant and convey to certain persons as Trustees for the sale thereof divers ffee ffarme Rents") granted to Francis Lord Hawley, Sir Charles Harbord, Knight, Sir William Haward, Knight, Sir John Talbot, Knight, Sir Robert Stewart, Knight, and William Harbord, Esquire, amongst other rents, "All that ffee ffarme rent of Seaventy five pounds eight shillings and four pence halfe penny and one pound of pepper reserved and issuing out of and for the mannor of Newport Pannell, in the said County of Bucks, now or lately payable by the right honourable Arthur Earle of Anglesey. Out of which said Mannor of Newport Pannell there is a Rent resolute of six pounds fifteene shillings and four pence yearly paid to the heires of Humfrey Stafford" to hold the same until sale upon trust for the King.

In 1707 the rent of £68 15s. o½d. was paid to Martin Bowes, Esquire, who had purchased it from the Crown, and the rent of £6 13s. 4d. was paid to the Lord of the Manor of Milton Keynes. The fee farm and quit rents then amounted to £77 15s. 1½d.[1]

In 1730, from the account of Edward Dymoke, the Steward, rendered to the Earl of Anglesey, it appears that the sum paid the Receiver in London, after deduction of £8 10s. od. for taxes in respect of the chief rent reserved, was £60 5s. o½d., and the sum paid to the Earl of Nottingham for the lesser rent, after deducting 16s. 3d. for taxes, was £5 17s. 1d. The Steward's salary was then £3 and the charges of the Court £1 6s. 6d.

The open fields known as Tickford Field and Port Field were enclosed in the years 1795 and 1808 respectively.

Port field, situate to the south-west of the town, was enclosed by virtue of an Act passed in the 34th year of George III. (1794), and its area was stated in such Act to be 900 acres. The Act provided that if the persons entitled to tythes signified their desire to take a composition in lieu thereof lands in such field should be allotted to them in complete satisfaction thereof.

The Award was made on 3rd July, 1795, and certain allotments were made to Richard Higgins and to Thomas Hooton in satisfaction of certain parts of the tithes due to them. The costs

1 Account rendered Hon. Arthur Annesley, 1707.

in connection with obtaining the Inclosure Act, making the Award, and constructing roads, &c., appears from particulars at the end of the Award to have been £1,341.

Tickford Field was enclosed in pursuance of an Act passed in the 47th year of George III. (Session 1806-7). The Act states that the field contained by estimation 900 acres, and mentions that the Right Honourable George Annesley, commonly called Lord Viscount Valentia, was Lord of the Manor of Newport Pagnell, and as such entitled to certain quit or fee farm rents issuing thereout, and was also owner of the soil of the waste lands within the Manor, and that Frederick Hendrick Van Hagen, Esquire, was, or claimed to be, Lord of the Manor of Tickford, and was Impropriator of the Great and Small Tythes arising from the tytheable lands in Tickford Field.

By the Award, dated 11th May, 1808, made in pursuance of this Act, allotments of 138a. 1r. 7p. and 13a. or. 18p. were made to Mr. Van Hagen in lieu of his tithes, and other allotments were made to Viscount Valentia in settlement of certain quit rents. The total area dealt with was 862a. 2r. 17p., or including the areas of lands exchanged, &c., 881a. 2r. 38p.

Tickford Park being enclosed was not dealt with by this or any other award.

In 1843 the question of tithes was gone into and a fixed tithe rent-charge arranged. At the enquiry it was found that all the Tickford tithes were extinguished on the Inclosure, and that a large part of the Portfield was also exonerated at the time of its Inclosure.

The apportionment, made 24th and confirmed 31st July, 1843, fixed the total rent-charge on the lands still liable to tithe at £62 os. 6d. Of this £58 was payable to Mr. George Pike and £4 os. 6d. to Dr. George Renny, of Dublin, and Robert Murray Fraser, Esq., of Seacomb, Liverpool, as tenants in common. The former charge is now (with the exception of about £1 3s. 8d., charged on three pieces of land altogether containing 3a. 3r. 17p.) merged in the reversion of the premises on which it was formerly charged. The £4 os. 6d. which is payable out of four of the feoffees' closes, was on 22nd August, 1854, conveyed to Mr. Wm. Pike, of Moulsoe, and eventually, passing under the will of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Pike, was assured to Miss Katherine Laura Verena Studholm Brownrigg, now Mrs. Knapp.

Tithe in the parish of Newport Pagnell is consequently, therefore, now practically non-existent.

The Manor of Newport Pagnell from the time of the grant by Charles I. till the year 1810 remained in the Annesley family,[1] but by Indentures of Lease and Release respectively, dated the 7th and 8th of May in the last named year, and made between the Right Honourable George Lord Littleton, Baron of Franckley in the County of Worcester, of the first part, the Right Honourable Arthur Earl Mountnorris and George Annesley, commonly called Viscount Valentia, of the second part, Charles Marius Hardy, of Newport Pagnell, Esquire, of the third part, and Charles Henry Hardy, of Brazen Nose College, of the fourth part, the Manor of Newport Pagnell and various lands in Newport were sold and released to Charles Marius Hardy.

The purchase-money was £9,090, and the sale was made subject to, inter alia, a fee farm rent of £55 5s. 6d., payable to Lord Myddleton and a quit rent of £5 7s. 6d. to Earl Winchilsea.

Mr. Hardy died at Newport Pagnell on 7th May, 1827, and was buried at Lathbury. By his will, dated 10th March, 1827, he devised the Newport Manor and Estate to his only son, Charles Henry Hardy, M.D., of Bath.

Doctor Hardy died intestate, and the Manor passed to Mrs. Maria Newby, his only sister and heiress at law. On her death, on 2nd April, 1871, and by virtue of her will, dated 31st March, 1858, the Manor became the property of her three daughters, the Misses Elizabeth, Martha, and Catherine Newby, as tenants in common in equal shares. It is now vested in Miss E. Newby, the survivor of these ladies.

Fee farm rents of £68 15s. 0½d. and £6 13s. 4d. are still payable, the present owners thereof being respectively Mrs. Lingard and G. H. Finch, Esq., M.P.

1 For some account of the family see biographical sketches post.

PART II.

TICKFORD.

TICKFORD,[1] which is within the Parish of Newport, is thus referred to in Domesday:—

"Land of William son of Ansculf. In Mosleie Hundred. Manor. William himself holds Ticheforde. It answered for five hides. There is land to eight ploughs. Besides these five hides there are in the demesne two carucates of land and two ploughs therein. Six villanes with four bondmen have there six ploughs. Meadow for five ploughs. Pannage for 50 hogs. Five sokemen there pay twenty-seven shillings. It is worth one hundred shillings; when received six pounds; and the same in King Edward's time. Vlf, a thane of King Edward's, held this manor; and there were five thanes who held three virgates and a half of this land, and they might sell it to whom they would."

The Manor, with that of Newport, passed to the Paynels, and, in the reign of William Rufus, Fulc Paynel founded there[2] a priory or cell of Cluniac monks, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and subordinate to the Abbey of St. Martin Majoris Monasterii, commonly called Marmonstier, at Tours in France.

The Priory once founded gradually added to its orginal endowments.

Several early gifts are referred to by Dugdale in his Monasticon. Amongst them was a gift of land of Bernard Segm in

1 The word probably means "goat-ford," the word "ticeen" meaning a goat.
2 Tanner's Notit. Monast. Charter 5 Edward II., hereafter referred to.

Tykford from Hawis Paynel,[1] sister of Gervase Paynel, with the consent of her second husband, Roger de Berkele.

Another charter of hers, to which Ralph de Sumeri, her son, was witness, confirmed to the monks two virgates of land which John de Sumeri, her first husband, had given them.

One Ralph Mansell, too, was an early giver of his land of Cuculmesho, with the assent and at the wish of his wife Cecily and his son and heir Seher. To this charter Gervase Paganel was a consenting party, and Isabella Countess of Northampton, Richard de Lund, and Roger (Robert?) Paganell were witnesses.

In 1187 Gervase Paganell granted to the monks a confirmatory charter of their various possessions. A copy is given in Dugdale, and the following is a translation :—

"To all the sons of Holy Mother Church to whom these presents shall come Gervase Paganell sendeth greeting. Be it known universally that I have given, and by this my present charter have confirmed, by the advice and assent of my wife Isabella, Countess of Northampton, to God and the Church of the Blessed Mary of Newport and the Blessed Martin of the Greater Monastery and the monks serving God there, for my soul's health and for the soul of my father and my mother and my wife, Countess Isabella, and for the souls of all my ancestors, and of my sons[2] whose bodies rest in the Church and in the Chapter House of the Blessed Mary of Newport all advowsons of churches and chapels and tenths and lands and men and meadows and pastures and liberties and all other ecclesiastical benefices which my ancestors, to wit, Fulcodius Paganell, my grandfather, and Ralph Paganell, my father, gave to God and the Blessed Mary and to the Monks of the Greater Monastery commemorating at Newport ; likewise I give and confirm my gifts and the gifts of my men, namely, the Church of Newport, with all its appurtenances and land, namely, one hide in Newport ; and the Chapel of Linford, with its appurtenances ; and the church of Chichele, with its chapels and other appurtenances. And the church of Tiringeham, of the gift of Giffard de Tiringeham, and and the chapel of Little Craule ; and the chapel of Estwde ; and

1 In his account of the Paynels Dugdale states that Hawyse Paynel was the daughter of Gervase, but in his account of the Somery family refers to her as the sister of Gervase. From the above Charter it appears clear she was sister, but in that case Dugdale's statement that Ralph Paynel, the father of Gervase, left several sons must be erroneous, or she could not have taken as heiress at law. Vide pp. 28, 29 ante.

2 Dugdale only refers to one son, Robert.

the church of Estone, with its chapels; and the church of Botendune;[1] and the church of Bernache. And two virgates of land in Little Craule of the gift of John de Someri and Ralph his son. And twelve acres of land, which are called Forest, of the gift of Pain de Embertune. And land and wood of Essarz, of the gift of the same Pain. And all that my land of Chichele which William Paganell held of me, with its liberties and appurtenances. And the mill of Caldecote, and half a virgate of land with pasture which belongs to the mill of Caldecote; and all that my land of my fee of Torneberge; and the homage and fealty and services of Reginald son of Adchur and of his heirs; and ten shillings which those lands yearly render as rent; and all that land which is of my lordship round about Laverkehruge at Tikeford. Further I give to the aforesaid monks all gifts which men of my fee shall give or have given; and the chapel of Pettesho of the gift of the Dapifer Osbert and Michael his son. Likewise such cultivation as lies before the gate of the monks up to the great . . . of my lordship, with other gifts, and the meadow which is situate between the bridge of Newport and the house of the monks; and the tenth of the pannage of Newport and of Linford; and all that messuage which is between the gate of the cemetery of St. Peter and the lord's demesne; and the tenth of the mill of Linford and one hide of land in Haremede; and land of Brocheleshai and land of Cadeworthe and half of the land of Cuculmesho. And all that land which Will de Lovente and his father gave to the aforesaid church, namely, a virgate of land of the gift of Godricus Coco and half a virgate of land of the gift of Ralph his son, and a virgate of land in Bradewelle of the gift of Michael son of Osbert de Pettesho. And two parts of the tenth of the lordship of Walter Mansell and John his son; and 8d. which John Mansell gave to the church for the soul of Robert Paganell; and two acres of land and one messuage of the gift of the Lord Richard in Linford. Besides I give to them all gifts and all men and lands and all meadows and

1 Boddington, Northants. The Prior of Tickford was entitled to present a rector, who had about two-thirds of the benefice, and the monks of Chacombe a rector, who took the rest. In 1291 the Tickford share of the rectory was valued at eleven marks, out of which a pension of 13s. 4d. to the Convent was allowed. This was increased in 5 Edward II. to two marks. From 1429 there appears to have been one rector only, Tickford Convent presenting to two out of three vacancies. A John Chace was presented the 28th April, 1419, and it is possible he may be identical with the Prior "Thomas" Chace. Bridge's Northants, vol. 1, p. 104.

pastures and all woods and liberties and ways which Ralph Mansell and his wife Cecilia and their heirs gave to the aforesaid church of Newport in frankalmoign, as their charters testify. I concede likewise to them and confirm that they may have a tenth in my house and in the house of my heirs of bread, fish, and venison, whether we shall be at Neuport or Bradefeld, or Botunden; and wood in all my woods through all my land in England for constructing a church and making and repairing houses wheresoever they may wish to take it outside the park; and the tenth of the venison of the park of Neuport; and that their men may have licence to sell and buy whatever may be necessary to them in and without the market place at Neuport without hindrance and freed and discharged from all dues. I concede to them anew the licence of fishing in all my waters of the same town; and pasture for their oxen wherever my oxen pasture, and grazing for their pigs in all my woods and parks through all my English land, contrary to all usage. I also grant to them anew that if the men of these monks do any injury to my men that it may be overlooked; my men and my heirs shall have justice in the court of the monks. I grant also to them and confirm all that gift which Robert de Castretona, my man, in the time of Ralph my father, gave to the church of Neuport and to the monks; two parts of his tenth of his Lordship of Tolthorep. Likewise also the gift which Ralph the bailiff, in the time of Ralph my father, and in the days of Fulc Paganell, my grandfather, gave to the aforesaid monks, to wit, two parts of his tenth of his lordship of Bernarhes. I give and grant, moreover, all these gifts and liberties to God and to the monastery of St. Mary of Neuport and the monks in frankalmoign, free of all services which pertain to me or to my heirs, and that these presents may remain both now and hereafter uncontrovertable. I have affixed my seal and called to witness the underwritten. These are the witnesses:—Simon Earl of Northampton, the Countess Isabella his mother, Peter the bailiff, Helia Foliot, Fulc Paganell, William his brother, Godwin the bailiff, Pain de Emberton, Geoffrey de Roeli, Michael son of Osbert, William Paganell, Bernard his son, William Simone chaplain, Robert the deacon, Garino his son, Thoma the chamberlain, William de Duddele, Herverard the butler, Ralph Coco, William de Lavente, William de Stabulo, Philipp de Haggeleia, Philippo Lorimer, Robert Suitft, Ralph

Dod, Roger Segin, Simon de Castertun, and many others.

"This charter was granted at Neuport in the time of Robert de Bohun, then prior of the same place, in the year of the Incarnation of the Lord MC 87, of the King Henry son of the Empress 33."

Between 1151—1154 Robert Bishop of Lincoln granted a confirmatory charter[1] of their possessions to the Monastery of St. Mary, Newport. There are several estates mentioned which are not in the Charter just given, references being made in the Bishop's Charter to the Church of Serinton,[2] given by William de Serinton, lord of the estate; to the chapel of Bradewell, given by Robert de Bradewell and William de Bavis, lords of the estate; to the church of Willing, given by Philip de Cohaines; half the church of Great Craule; the church of Brouthone, given by Robert de Brouthone and William his son; the tithe of Walter Mansell from his demesne of Suleberi; two-thirds of the tithe of the demesne of Ralf de Bernakes; and the tithes of two virgates of land in Luketon, given by Bertram de Luketon.

The charter concludes with an authority to the monks to retain the premises mentioned for the support of their brethren, guests, and poor, and a direction to choose and present to the Bishop of Lincoln vicars to whom they should secure the rights of vicars therein.

Another Charter confirming that just mentioned was granted by Hugh Bishop of Lincoln (1186—1200).

About 1205 Robert Hamelyn, prior of Newport and the Convent there, granted to William son of Reginald eight virgates of land in Thorneberge, which their predecessors had by the gift of Fulk Paganell, their patron; to be held by the said William and his heirs, whose service and homage Gervase Paganell gave to the Priory in frankalmoign, paying an annual rent of ten shillings.

On the obverse of the round white seal attached to this grant is apparently a lamb looking to the right and supporting a cross (seemingly without a banner) by one fore foot. The inscription is nearly all effaced, but the letters "+ igi . . . . ort" are left. On the reverse is an Ark and the words "+ Sig. Roberti Hamelini Pri. de Nevp."[3]

1 Calendar of Documents in France, edited by J. H. Round. Archives of Indre et Loire in Bibliothèque Nationale.

2 The gift of this church was made in the presence of Henry II. Ibid.

3. Macray's Notes on Muniments of St. Mary Magdalen College, Oxford, 1882, and Letter from H. A. Wilson, Esq., Librarian there.

SEAL OF GERVASE PAGANELL.

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In the time of King John the Prior was involved in a dispute as to the land at Serenton and the advowson of the church there, to which he claimed title through the gift of William de Serintone.[1] There was also trouble later on as to this land and advowson, as a subsequent Prior seems to have attempted to alienate it.[2]

In 1220, on the fourth of the calends of June, the Lord Hugh Bishop of Lincoln, coming to the Priory of Tikeford, outside Neuport, on the occasion of making a visitation, was received with honourable hospitality there, and with a solemn procession.[3]

In 1228 the Priory was thrown into a tumult because it was sought to have a certain agreement observed, to which was appended the seal of the Abbey and Convent of Marmonstier. As a result William the Prior and all the monks, but three, were expelled and some of the monks imprisoned. At length, however, an agreement was come to, and written in the manner of a chirograph, and the prior and monks appear to have returned, and everyone was reconciled.[4]

As already mentioned, Aston was given to the Priory by Gervase Pagnell, and was moreover appropriated to it by Richard Pèche, then Bishop of the Diocese, which appropriation Hubert Archbishop of Canterbury confirmed. In 15 Henry III. there was a ratification, however, by Giles de Erdington, for which he and his heirs were made partakers of all the prayers and pious works to be performed in the monastery for ever. Moreover, on his death, about 1270, a monk was assigned, at the cost of the Priory, to sing for his soul and the souls of his parents.[5]

In 38 Henry III. thare was an ordination of Aston Vicarage by Roger de Wescham, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, with the consent of the monks of Tickford and William de Kilkenny, the then Rector, by which the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield were to receive twenty marks yearly.[6]

As early as 1248 there were disputes as to the extent of the

1 Placita Abb., p. 33.

2 In the time of Edward II., a writ upon the statute was obtained against the then Prior by John de Burgh of Sherynton and Sibilla his wife because the Prior had alienated the advowson and land at Sherington granted by the ancestors of the said Sibilla.—Pleas Parl., vol. 1, p. 399.

3 Dodsworth MS., cvii. 37b, quoting from Bishops' Register.

4 Annales Monastici, vol. 3. Annales Prioratus de Dunstaplia, 1866, p. 109.

5 Dugdale's Warwickshire, vol. 2, p. 873.

jurisdiction of the Bishop of Lincoln, and there is among the Papal Registers a confirmation addressed to the Bishop of Lincoln of the sentence pronounced by William Cardinal of St. Eustace (dated Lyons, 4 Non., June, 1249) in favour of the Bishop against the Abbot and Convent of Marmontier lez Tours, who complain of his having excommunicated the monks of the Priory of Newport Pagnel, who claim that the Priors instituted by the said Abbot have the right of administering without contradiction of the Bishop of the diocese. [1]

In 4 Edward I., according to the Hundred Rolls, the Prior was called to account for depriving the men of Newport of a right of common in a meadow against the Court of Newport from the time of carrying hay up to the feast of Saint Mary in March. [2]

In 1274 there was again trouble, for in that year, writing from Paris, John Duke of Brittany petitions King Edward, on behalf of the Abbot and Convent of the Monastery of Tours, to which Monastery the priories at Newport Pagnell and at Holy Trinity, York, had been granted long since. From the petition it appears that certain professed monks of the said monastery having associated to themselves accomplices, had by their malice with violence seized the said priories from the time of the rebellion of Simon Montfort, and were determined to retain them although the right of the said religious submitted to judgment in the Court of the Pope, in the Council of Lyons, had been finally declared by Papal letter, and the sentence could not, it was said, be delivered for due execution on account of the power of their adversaries. The burden of the petition consequently was that the King would uphold the monks who the monastery destined for the priories and defend them with the shield of his magnanimity against the power and violence of their adversaries and God would reward him. [3]

Again, in 3 Nicholas IV., 1290, there is a mandate to the Abbot of St. Albans and Prior of St. Andrew's, Northampton, to hear and within six months decide the cause between the Abbot and Convent of St. Martin Marmontier lez Tours and the Bishop of Lincoln about his visitation of the Priory of Newport Pagnel to which Prior Simon de Beda [Reda] admitted him, while the monks having refused him admittance were excommunicated by him, the

1 Calendar of Papal Registers, 6 Innocent IV. 2 Vide p. 33 ante.
3 Rymer's Foedera, vol. 1, part 2, p. 521.

said Priory being immediately subject to the Monastery at Tours. If the matter could not be settled as directed it was ordered to be remitted to the Pope.[1]

From the Lincoln Registers it appears that as a result of the visitation of the Bishop's Commissioners, on 4th Id. July, 1291, Simon de Reda was on 6th Kal. September removed on account of dilapidation of the goods of the house and incontinence and homicide.

The removal seems to have given rise to further meetings and discussions as to the Bishop's authority, which appears to have ultimately been established.

The taxation of Pope Nicholas IV., taken 1291, has the following entries :—

SPIRITUAL.

		£	s.	d.
Dioc. Linc.....	Pensio in eccl. de Sulesbur		5	0
	Porcio in eccl. de Harmede	1	6	8
Dioc. Covent...	Eccl. de Astone appr. pr. de Tykeford praeter pens	26	13	4

TEMPORAL.

Dioc. Lond. ...	Redd in Alba Nuttele			6
	In Sulebur in redd		6	8
	De magistro hospit. Sancti Johannis extra portam orientalem in Oxon in Thornbery		10	0
	In Tykeford in terris redd. pratis vis francpleg et heriett	9	14	7½
	In Northampton de redd...		19	10

As feudal lords of the Church the Popes demanded from every church benefice a fine of its first year's income from every new incumbent and an annual tax of one-tenth of its income. The tax was, however, sometimes ceded to the kings, and in 1288 Pope Nicholas IV. gave the tenths to Edward I. for six years towards an expedition to the Holy Land. That a full collection might be made a new taxation was ordered, and the taxation so made and completed, 1291—92, is accordingly known as Taxatio Ecclesiastica P. Nicholai IV.

In 22 Edward I. an Inventory of the goods and chattels of the Priory and extent of the Manor was taken.[2] It runs thus :—

1 Calendar Papal Registers, 3 Nicholas IV. 2 Dugdale's Monasticon.

"There are there 5 palfreys worth 40s. Also 3 horses worth 10s. each. Also 4 horses each being worth 5s. Also 1 blind horse worth 12d. Also 2 cart horses each being worth 5s. Also 7 oxen worth each 2s. Also 1 ox worth 8d. Also 2 heifers each worth 5s. Also 7 bullocks each worth half a mark. Also 3 bulls each worth 5s. Also 1 cow worth 3s. Also 7 young oxen worth each 2s. Also 41 sheep each worth 12d. Also 13 lambs each worth 6d. Also 58 pigs each worth 15d. Also 19 little pigs each worth 2d. Also 2 swans each worth 3s. Also 2 peacocks each worth 12d. Also 124 acres in the fields, sown with wheat, worth per acre 2s. 6d.; with wheat and rye, 2 acres and a half, worth per acre 12d.; 9 acres with drag,[1] worth 2s. 2d. an acre; 4 acres with beans, worth an acre 2s.; 15 acres and a half with peas and vetches, worth per acre 23d.; 133 acres with oats, worth per acre 18d.; 3 acres of meadow for mowing, worth per acre 2s. 8d. Total, £45 12s. 8½d.

"The jurors found, too, that the fees and easements of the Courts of Tykeford, Bradewell, and Tykethorn were worth per annum, with the sale of underwood, £4 8s. Rents of free tenants, £13 19s. 10d. Rents and services of customary tenants, £9 13s. 4¼d. Value of 20 acres of arable land at Tykeford, 10s. Value of 415½ acres 1 rood of arable land at Tykethorn, £13 17s. 2d. Value of 6½ acres of arable land in the field of Schirinton belonging to Tykethorn, 3s. 4d. Value of 140 acres of land in the lordship at Bradewell, £7. Value of 9½ acres of meadow with a plot of meadow opposite the Priory, 24s. The pasture of the aforesaid places, 9s. 2½d. Caldecot Mill, 66s. 8d. Pleas and perquisites of the Courts, with fines of lands and with tallages of the villains, £4 10s. Pensions and outside rents, 74s. 8d. Tenths of the Churches of Lynford, Estwode, Bradewell, Chethele, Wyles, Wolston, and Louzeton, £78 18s. Total, £141 15s. 2¼d."

In 1307 there was a dispute between Robert de Lydington and Alice his wife and William, Prior of Tykeford, as to a common fishery in the water of Caldecote to the ford called Loventford, which Gervase Paynell granted the Priory.[2] The Lydingtons contended that John de Lovente for long before Gervase had aught in Caldecote held the fishery and enfeoffed them of it, but their claim failed.

1 A coarse kind of corn. 2 Placitorum Abbreviata, p. 261.

In the Testa de Nevill the Prior of Tigford is mentioned as holding a fee of the Honor of Dudley.

About 1311 the Priory Buildings and the charters and grants relating to the Priory possessions were destroyed by fire, and it became desirable, if not necessary, to obtain a royal confirmation of the various lands and premises.

Such Confirmatory Charter was eventually obtained in 5 Edward II., and runs as follows:—

"Edward, by the Grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Aquitain, to all to whom these present Letters shall come Greeting. Know ye that whereas by Inquisitions which at the Suit of the Prior of Tykford asserting that the Charters and Muniments, as well of our Progenitors formerly Kings as of divers other Lords, of Lands, Tenements, Rents, Churches, Pensions, and Possessions, and of certain Liberties to the said Priory and Monks of the same anciently given and granted were consumed by Fire, and earnestly beseeching us that we would grant to him our Charter of Confirmation of the Lands and Tenements and Rents aforesaid, and likewise of the Churches, Pensions, Possessions, and Liberties aforesaid, to be made according to the Tenor of the Inquisitions aforesaid by our beloved and faithful Robert de Retford and John de Mutford thereunto by our Letters Patent assigned and which we have caused to be returned into our Chancery, it is found that Fulc Paganell founded the Priory of Tickford, in the County of Buckingham, and that the same Paganell gave to the monks there the Scite of the same House and all the Land which is on both sides of the Monechus Street now inhabited by Tenants and which extends itself from the Gate of the same House to the Cross next the Highway which leads towards London, and all those Lands and Tenements which are in the Street which is called Hawe Street to the Bridge of Tykford on the East Side as the Metes and Bounds by Ditches and Hedges surrounding extend themselves between the Bondmen of our beloved and faithful John de Somery, now Lord of Newport, and the Tenants of the same Prior and all the Lands and tenements which are before the Gate of the same House as the Metes and Bounds by Ditches and Hedges surrounding extend themselves on the South Side of the aforesaid House unto the River Ouse. And also that he gave to the same a certain Meadow called the Castle Mead and a free and several

Fishery in the River Ouse under the Close of the same House from the Corner of their Court upon the river which is called Le Ildele unto the Ditch which is called Larkbrooke towards the East ; and the Mill of Caldecote with the Pond of the same Mill and twenty-four acres and a half of Land and three Acres of Meadow in Tykeford and fifty-four Shillings of Rent issuing from divers of their Tenements in Tykford and also the Church of Newport to their own proper use, and one Hide of Land in the Field of Newport which is the Glebe of the same Church with the Chapel of Little Lynford with a certain Messuage and Grange in the same Town, and the Tythe of Eels and of the Mill of the same Town. And likewise the Tythe of all his Mills in Newport and also the Tythe of all his Demesne Land, Meadows, Feedings, and Pastures, and of his Men and Tenants in Newport, Tykeford, and Little Lynford, and Pasture for twelve Cows and one Bull in all his Feedings and Pastures in Newport in the same Places in which his Oxen are depastured. And the Tythe of Venison in his Park of Tykford, and also the Meadow which is called the Hoggemead, which is next his Garden and the Mill Pond on the North side of Newport, and 46s. 10d. of Rent issuing from divers Tenements of the said Prior in Newport. And twenty-seven shillings and ten pence of Rent in the Marsh next Newport and 3s. 4d. of Rent in Caldecote next Newport, and his Court of all his Tenants in Newport, Tykford, Marsh, Caldecote, from three weeks to three weeks in Tickford. And 2s. 3d. of Rent issuing from one Messuage and half a Yardland in Lathbury, and 15 acres of Meadow in the same Town, and one Messuage and one Rod of Land with the Meadow appertaining in Gayhurst, and also 8d. of Rent to be paid by the Hands of William Martin in Weston, and 2s. 2d. of Rent issuing from one half Yardland which Thomas de Neuwent held in Clifton. And 3s. 2d. of Rent issuing from a certain Tenement which John Berthelmewe holds in Emberton. And seven acres of land in Schyryngton and 9s. of Rent issuing from one Messuage and fourteen acres of Land which Samson the Clerk formerly held in Schiryngton. And 10d. of rent arising from one Messuage which Ralph Machon held in the same Town, and in Great Crawley 6s. 8d. of Rent issuing from one Messuage and two Yardlands which Walter de la Burn formerly held, and 16d. of Rent issuing from a Tenement which Wm. Goldyng formerly held, and 15d. of Rent issuing from a Tenement which Hugh Sabyn formerly held in

Little Crawley, and 6s. 8d. of Rent issuing from one Messuage and half a Yardland which Walter Mauncell formerly held in Solebury. And two parts of the Tythes of all the Demesne Lands and Meadows of Robert Lovet in the same Town, and all the Tythes of the Demesne Lands, and Meadows of Richard de Tours in Wolston and Great Lynford, and one Ploughland and 16s. of Rent in Bradewell, Loughton, and Staunton, and Suit of Court of all his Tenants of Bradewell from three Weeks to three Weeks in Bradewell, and a certain Messuage and the Church of the same Town to their own proper use. And in Loghton all the Tythes of the Fee of Fauconer, and 20s. in the name of a pension to be taken by the Hands of the Prior of Caldewell and his Successors for the Church of Great Crawley, and 3s. in the name of a Pension to be taken by the Hands of the Abbot of Wouborne and his Successors for the Chapel of Wouborne Chapel. And 10s. of Rent for those Lands which the Master of the Hospital of St. John of Oxford holds in Thornbury. And the Church of Wylies to their proper use. And in Chicheley and Hardmead the Manor of Thykethorne and 317 acres and one Rod of Land and one Acre and three Rods and half a Meadow and 13 Acres and one Rod of Pasture and 47 Acres and a half and one Rod of Wood and 18 yard lands which their Bondmen hold in the the same Town, and 36s. of Rent issuing from their divers Tenements in the same Town. And in Chicheley Sixty-five acres of Land and the Church of the same Town to their own proper use, and 3d. of Rent in the same Town to be received from a Tenement which Stephen Parage held and his Court of all his Men and Tenants in the same Town from three Weeks to three Weeks at Thikethorne. And a certain Messuage in Astewoode and a Church of the same Town to their own proper Use, and 12d. of Rent in the same Town issuing from a Tenement which Botulph formerly held. And moreover it is found by the Inquisitions aforesaid that the aforesaid Prior of Tykeford hath and all his Predecessors have time out of mind been accustomed to have a view of Frankpledge and all other things to the same view in anywise belonging of all their Men and Tenants in Newport, Tykford, Chicheley, Marsh, Caldecote, Thykethorn, and Hardmead. And also that the aforesaid Prior of Tickford holds of the Gift of the aforesaid Fulc in the County of Northampton the Advowson of two Parts of the Church of Botyndon which is yearly

pensioned to the same Prior for 2 marks and 10s. of Yearly Rent in the same Town of Botyngdon issuing from one Messuage and three Yardlands which William held in the same. And that the same Prior receives every year two Marks in the name of a Pension from the Church of Bernak by the Hands of the Abbot of Peterborough, in the Abbey thereof, together with the expenses of every Messenger seeking the two Marks aforesaid there as long as the same Messenger shall make stay there expecting the Pension aforesaid. And also that the aforesaid Prior hath and ought to have in the Town of Northampton of the Gift of Agnes de St. Peter, formerly Daughter of Beringer, of Northampton, 28s. 4d. of annual Rent arising from divers Tenements, Rendering therefor to the Bailiffs of the Town of Northampton 3s. yearly. And it is likewise found by the Inquisitions aforesaid that the Predecessors of the aforesaid Prior had divers Charters and Muniments of Lands, Tenements, Rents, Churches, Appropriations, Pensions, and Possessions as aforesaid, and also the Charter of Henry II., formerly King of England, our Progenitor, by which the same king granted to the Monks aforesaid all the Lands and Possessions aforesaid, and also the said Liberty of a View of Frankpledge. And that the same Charter and all other Charters and Muniments whatsoever of the aforesaid Priory were burnt by fire of the Houses in the same Priory, and that it is not to the loss or prejudice of us or any other Person if we cause our Charter of Confirmation of the Lands, Tenements, Rents, Churches, Pensions, and Possessions and the Liberty aforesaid to be made to the Prior aforesaid. We, by the influence of God, favourably regarding the Intreaties of the Prior aforesaid concerning the Premises, holding firm and valid all the Gifts and Grants aforesaid, do for us and our Heirs as much as in us lies grant and confirm the same to the aforesaid Prior and Monks of the same House and their Successors, together with the aforesaid Liberty of View of Frankpledge, as the same Prior and his Predecessors Priors of the same place have hitherto reasonably used and enjoyed the same Liberty, saving the Right of everyone. Moreover, willing to do more ample Grace to our beloved Brother in Christ, William de la Menerere, now Prior of the Priory aforesaid, for the amending the state of his Priory, we have granted to him for us and our Heirs that he and his Successors, Priors of the same Place, for ever may have in the Town of Tickford in his Soil there a Pillory and a

Tumberell to punish and chastise Transgressors there as shall be just. In Testimony whereof we have caused these our Letters to made Patent. Witness Ourself at Northampton the 11th Day of August, in the Fifth year of our Reign."

An Inquisition ad quod dampnum was held at Newport on 1st May 9 Edward II. as to the following proposed gifts to the Prior and Convent of Tickford, namely :—

ROGER LE BRABANZON.

Two messuages, 31 acres of land, 4½ acres of meadow, and a several pasture in the pasture of the Lord of Newport Pannell, with his Beasts (to wit), for 4 oxen, two Horses, and two Cows held of John de Somery by service of a pound of pepper and two capons.

HENRY SPIGURNELL.

Ninepence of rent in the same town held of John de Somery without any service.

JOHN DE SOMERY.

His fishery of the value of 6d. by the year in the water of Lovente from the Bridge of Tickford to the fisheries of Mulsho and Wilies.,[1] 14s. of rent, and the rent of one pound of pepper and two capons held of the King as parcel of the Barony.

WILLIAM DE WENRICH AND ROBERT DE WENRICH.

One messuage and one acre of land in same town held of Henry Spigurnell by the yearly service of 3d. which had been granted by him to the Convent.

MARTIN LE ENGLEYS.

One messuage, six acres and one rod of land, 15d. of rent, and one acre and the half of one rod of Meadow and one acre of Pasture in the same town held of the Convent at the yearly service of 2s.

It was found that the gifts, which were in all of the yearly value of 35s. 7¼d., would not be to the hurt or prejudice of the Lord the King.

In 18 Edward II. another extent of the Priory possessions[2] was taken, and the following was the return :—

"An extent of the lands and tenements of the priory of Tykeford, made at that place on Tuesday next before the Feast of Saint

1 Lipscomb quotes a grant made on the Friday before the Feast of the Holy Trinity, 9 Edward II., whereby John de Somery gave to the Priory the free and several fishery of Lovente at Newport in exchange for 13s. 11d. (rent ?) which the monks in his name had acquired in fee of Lord Henry Spirgurnel.

2 Vide Dugdale's Monasticon.

Nicholas in the 18th year of the reign of King Edward, son of King Edward, on the oath of Thomas de Lughton, John de Eltisdon, and others, who say on their oath that the profits, site, court, and easements of the house are worth per annum 40s. Also that there are there 20 acres of arable land worth per annum 10s. Also that there are in the lordship 115 acres of arable land of which 48 are wont to be in the hands of tenants, and are worth per annum 54s. 6d. Also in divers parcels 24 acres of meadow, which are worth per annum 36s. Also there is there the site of a messuage and dovehouse given by Roger de Brabeson worth per annum 4s. Also a close called Martin's Croft, containing 2 acres of land worth per annnm 12d. Also there is there a broken water mill which is worth nothing until it be repaired, and if it be repaired then it will be worth 8s. 4d. per annum, and they say it can be repaired for 40s. There are there also rents of assize £4 6s. 2d. per annum at the terms of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary and St. Michael. There are also works done by the free tenants worth per annum 3s. at the term of Michaelmas. Also there are pleas and perquisites of the Court worth per annum, with the view of frankpledge, 6s. 8d. Total, £14 17s. 8d.

"THYKETHORN.—Also the jurors say that the profits of the house and site and court are worth per annum 6s. 8d. Also there are in the lordship 422 acres of arable land, which are worth per annum £7 8d. Also 11 acres of pasture worth per annum, with pasture in the wood 9s. 2d. Also 3 acres 3 roods of pasture worth per annum 4s. 1½d. Also two woods containing 44 acres, and the profits of which are worth per annum 20s. Also a windmill worth per annum 21s. Also returns from free tenants 46s. 8½d. per annum, at the terms of the Annunciation and St. Michael in equal portions. Also customary rents and cottars at those terms 109s. Also rents of the same at the term of St. Martin 6 fowls, and at Christmas 38, which are worth per annum 5s. 6d. Also the work of the customary tenants and cottars worth per annum £7 12s. 10d., namely, at Christmas 7s., at the Annunciation 7s., at the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist 21s., and at the feast of St. Michael 117s. 10d. Also pleas and perquisites of the court lands and customary tallages worth yearly £4.

"BRADEWELL.—They also say that the easements of the house and site and of the court are worth yearly 3s. 4d. Also there are 140 acres arable land worth 46s. 8d. Also 5 acres worth 7s. 6d.

Also from rents of assize 17s. per annum at the aforesaid two terms. Also there are 74s. 6½d.

"Also there are from pensions and outside rents, with part of the tenths of Hardiued 74s. 8d. Also the church of Neupote worth per annum, with the Chapel of Little Lynford, £26 13s. 4d. Also the church of Wylie, worth 46s. 8d. Also the church of Checchele, worth £6 10s. Also Bradewell church, worth 4s. 4d. Also Astwode church worth £6 13s. 4d. Also parts of the tenths in Leghton, Galston, and Great Lynford worth yearly 26s. 8d. Totals, £49 18s.

"They say also on oath that Walter de Attefelde holds of the Prior of Tykeford eleven marks sterling which ought to have been paid before the Feast of St. Michael in the 17th year of the reign of King Edward for the profits of Little Lynford sold to him in the same 17th year.

"They also say that the same Prior demised the aforesaid Church of Astwode to a certain Master a Firmarius, of Filegrave, from the Feast of Saint John [before the Latin Gate?] in the 17th year of the King that now is to the end of three years next following for 10 marks which he paid to the same Prior beforehand.

EXPENSES OF HOUSE OF TYKEFORD.

"The Prior and 8 monks. Also one chaplain called Lord Richard Cachepol; who by deed takes in everything as one monk. Also Robert de Cornedale with his wife, William Wenrych and Martin Angleys, any of whom takes in everything like as a monk and beyond daily one loaf of brown bread and one gallon of second beer, and the aforesaid Martin takes one pig at the Feast of St. Martin, and two cart loads of wood and the stubble of two acres of land. Also John de Pontefract takes weekly seven loaves and seven gallons of conventual beer and four dishes of meat by charter. Also William de Shongelar takes by charter in everything as one monk and 10s. for a robe. John de Wykham takes weekly by charter 8 loaves and 8 gallons of the conventual beer. Also Henry de Shagh takes weekly by charter 7 loaves and 7 gallons of beer. Richard Trop takes 7 loaves and 7 gallons of beer in satisfaction to him of 25s. Also a certain chaplain, namely, Lord Thomas de Cosham for celebrating mass for the soul of the Lord Roger Brabason takes weekly as one monk by ancient frankalmoign of the same. Also the underwritten pensions, namely:—

The parson of Tyryngham, who takes 20s. per annum.

Lord Gilbert de Mopflo	...	...	20s.
Master John de Drayton	...	...	20s.
Lord John de Olneye	...	...	40s.
Nich. Darderne ...	...	...	20s.
Hugh de Bradewell ...	...	...	40s.
Lord Ric. Hiller ...	...	...	20s.
Robert Kelim	...	...	20s.

"Also 10s. rent due to the light of the Blessed Mary of Tykeford, namely, at the disposition of the Sacristan.

"Also £8 are yearly estimated for the sustenation of the houses of the Priory of Tykeford.

"Also Alex. Tynte, the servant of Thykelthorn, takes everything weekly as a monk and one loaf of conventual bread and 9s. for his robe yearly."

About 19 Edward II. there was a confirmation by Roger Dakeny, lord of Lathebury, of a grant of lands and premises in Lathbury and of the meadow called the "Monkesholmes," made by Ralph de Olenge and William his son, and also by Simon de Houttone and Annabella his wife.[1]

In 2 Edward III. a Commission of Oyer and Terminer issued against William, prior of Tickford, and others, for that he and they had taken away goods of John Kynebell, of Fylegrave, at Astwode.

On 10th May, 1331 (5 Edward III.) there was a grant to the Prior to retain in Mortmain the advowson and tithes of one-third of the Church of Aston in right of the church of St. Mary, Tickford, as lately recovered by him in the Bench against the Prioress of of Gatesby. Fine 10 marks.

On the 13th of August in the same year there is a protection granted to the Abbot for one year.

On 6th February, 1342, Fulk, the prior, and the Convent of Tykeford, released Adam de Lodbrook (Master of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, Oxford), brother Walter le Rokayle (convert of the same), Robert Hawardin, of Thornberghe, and others from all actions named in a certain writ for trespass.

The seal attached is an oval green one, and shows two standing figures under canopies; intended possibly for SS. Peter and Paul. Above these figures, under an upper canopy, are the figures of the Virgin, seated, and the Child; below the whole is shown the upper

1 Ancient Deeds, Charters, A. 76.

part (head, shoulders, and hands) of a figure in supplication. The inscription, which is partly illegible, runs apparently:—"S' PRIS . . . . PRIORIS DE TYKFORD."[1]

About 21 Edward III., by reason of the Priory possessions being in the hands of the King, difficulties arose as to the incidence of taxes imposed upon the men of Newport, who petitioned the King to make an abatement in the taxes levied on them so that they should not be prejudiced by the fact that lands purchased by the Prior were exempt from tallage.[2]

As a result an Inquiry was held, and the grievance appears to have been remedied.[3]

In 1353 there was a dispute between the Convent and John, Vicar of Stoke, and others, parishioners of Wylien, with reference to the provision of ornaments for the altar of Wylien Church, but the result is unknown.[4]

On the Sunday of the Feast of Purification, 28 Edward III., John de Garys, the then Prior of Tickford, demised to Hugh de Hopewas, Canon of Lichfield, and John de Aston, chaplain, the Church of Aston and certain tithes for five years, while, in 1354, there was an authority to the same persons to pay to the Chapter of Lichfield 80 marks which were owing.[5] This amount was probably due in respect of the annual sum of 20 marks which, as already mentioned, was payable[6] out of the Rectory of Aston. There are several other references to disputes with the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, as to monies due, to be found in the published petitions to Parliament.

In 1380 the Priory rentals are put at £53 5s. 10d. by Cole.

Certain letters patent dated at Westminster 12th December 6 Richard II. are an exemplification of a Bull of Pope Alexander IV. dated at Viterbo, 6 Ides November in the third year of his Pontificate, and confirmed by Edward I., of exemption from ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Priory of Tickford, a cell of the Abbey of St. Martin's at Tours, and of which John Dun was then Prior.[7] The grant seems to indicate that the old contentions on

1 Macray's Notes on Muniments of Magdalen College, Oxford, 1882, and Letter from H. A. Wilson, Esq., there.

2 Petitions in Parliament, 21 and 22 Edward III., vol. 2, p. 213.

3 Inq. ad. quod dampnum, 22 Edward III., No. 24.

4 Bucks Charters. Bodleian, No. 51. 5 Bucks Charters. Bodleian, Nos. 53, 54.

6 Vide p. 67. 7 Bucks Charters. Bodleian No. 58.

the head of the Bishop's rights were still proceeding.

In 1400 there was a dispute with Thomas Overton, the rector of Crawley, as to payment of tithes, and the rector won his case against the Prior of Tykford. [1]

In 1492 Guy, Abbot of Marmonstier, Tours, wrote a letter appointing [2] Humphrey Lytleton, priest, late monk of St. Peter's Westminster, on the recommendation of John Abbot of Westminster, Prior of the Priory of Tickford, in the room of William Pemberton deceased, but to judge from the Lincoln Registers the letter was of no effect, and Lytleton did not take office, as the appointment rested with the York Priory as hereafter mentioned.

During the French Wars the Priory and its possessions were seized by both Edward II. and Edward III. as an alien priory. The premises were restored in 1 Edward III., but in 1337 were let for 23 years. They were again restored in 1361, but only to be sequestrated during the reign of Richard II. [3]

Upon the last restoration in the first year of Henry IV. the Priory was subjected to the Priory of the Holy Trinity at York [4] by the Priors of which House those of Tickford were presented in 1465, 1475, 1499, and 1501.

Upon this restoration the "ancient conduct" which was wont to be paid by the Priory in times of peace to the chief lord of the aforesaid Priory in the parts beyond the sea was reserved and ordered to be paid to the King and his heirs instead. And it was also ordered that the premises should be subject to the various subsidies granted to the Crown. John Drien was Prior at this time.

The "ancient conduct" possibly referred to the pension of 40s. paid by the Priory to the Abbey of Conches in Normandy the reversion of which, after the death of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, was settled by Henry VI. on his College of Eton. [5]

About 1523 Cardinal Wolsey conceived the idea of founding Colleges at Ipswich and Oxford, and for this end obtained leave from the Pope and Henry VIII. to throw down a few superfluous

1 Deputy Keeper of Records 51st Report, p. 26.

2 Bucks Charters, Bodleian No. 59.

3 Mon. Angl. III. pt. 2, p. 197, Rot. Parl. 20 Henry VI., vol. 5, p. 47.

4 Alien Priories and Dugdale.

5 Dug. Monasticon v. 3, p. 200. Pleas Parl.

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SEAL OF TICKFORD PRIORY.

monasteries and divert their revenues to the cost of building. [1]

Amongst other monasteries which were so thrown down was Tickford, the proceedings for its dissolution being authorised by a Bull of Pope Clement VII. dated 3rd Ides September, 1524.

On 4th January, 1524, Cardinal Wolsey issued a Commission to Sir William Gascoyne, Dr. William Burbank, and Thomas Cromwell to visit the monasteries of Tykeford, Ravenston, &c., about to be suppressed, and their revenues converted to the use of Cardinal College, Oxford, and report on their possessions and buildings, &c.[2]

Soon after, on the 5th February, 1524,[3] there was a solemn meeting in the Chapter House of Tickford Priory, at which one Thomas Parker, described as Prior of the House or Priory of Tyckford of the Cluniac Order of St. Benedict, "not being coerced led or drawn thereto by force fraud or fear," surrendered the office of prior and the conventual offices of the house and all the interest of himself and his brethren therein, and the goods thereof into the hands of Master William Burbank, Archdeacon of Carlisle and deputy of Cardinal Wolsey. The conventual seal was then and there broken and cancelled, the name of Christ being first invoked to the decree of suppression, to the translation of the Prior and brethren to other places, and to the annexation of the goods of the Priory to the College of the Most Reverend Father the Lord Thomas in the renowned University of Oxford to be founded.

The seal thus broken was probably that of which an illustration is given, and which is thus described in the British Museum Catalogue of Seals (vol. 1) :—"Late 14th Cent. Impression in gutta percha, gilded, from the matrix, 2¾in. × 1¾in. Pointed oval: the Virgin, with crown, seated in a heavily canopied niche with tabernacle work at the sides: the Child, with nimbus, on the right knee, in the left hand a sceptre fleur-de-lizé. In base, under the masonry of the corbel, in a niche with round-headed arch, an ecclesiastic kneeling, turned three quarters to the left, in prayer. 'Sigillu : Coie : Domus : Beate : Marie : de : Tykford.' Beaded borders."

It will be noticed that the date assigned is a comparatively late one, and that the seals already referred to were those of the respective priors, and not the convent itself, so that it seems

1 Herbert's Henry VIII., London, 1741, p. 122.

2 Exch. Treasury of Receipt Misc. 55—3.

3 State Papers. Dom. Series Henry VIII., vol. 4.

possible that there was no conventual seal while the Priory was subject to the Monastery of Tours, but that when that connection was more or less severed it acquired one.

In an Inquisition taken at Coleshill on 7th October, 17 Henry VIII., Thomas Broke is given as Prior at the suppression, and indeed it was Broke who received the pension hereafter referred to. The Inquisition states that there were two professed monks at the Priory at the suppression, and that since that event the church and site had been vacated and become a profane place.[1]

At this time the spiritualities were valued at £59 3s. 4d. per annum, and the temporalities at £67 13s. 8d., in the whole £126 17s. per annum.

An Abstract of a Survey temp. Henry VIII. in Dugdale's Monasticon is as follows:—

			£	s.	d.
Bucks.	Tykford.	Manor and demesnes			
	Vakes.	A House and Land ...	0	4	2
	Newport Paynell.	Tithes ...	34	13	4
		Rents of Freeholders	2	6	4
		Tenements by Indenture	1	8	10
	Calcote.	Tithes ...	3	6	8
		Freehold Rents ...	0	4	0
		Tenants at will ...	6	19	8
	Geyhurst.	Lands ...	0	8	0
	Sherington.	Tenement and Land	0	7	6
	Little Lynford.	Tithes ...	5	0	0
	Lathbury	Lands ...	0	16	0
	Chicheley.	Tithes ...	10	0	0
		Freehold lands ...	1	17	8
		Tenements by Indenture	5	14	0
		Copyhold Lands, &c.	14	8	11
	Harmede.	A Close ...	0	16	0
	Lynford Magna.	Portion of Tithes ...	0	5	0
	Wolston Parva.	,, ...	1	6	8
	Astwod.	Pension ...	2	0	0
	Wyllyn.	,, ...	0	10	0
	Filgrave.	Chief Rent ...	0	12	0
	Clifton.	Free Rent ...	0	2	2
	Sulburie.	Tithes, &c. ...	0	8	0
	Crawley.	Tithes, &c. ...			

1 State Papers. Dom. Ser. Henry VIII. Vol. 4.

			£	s.	d.
	Lowghton.	Portion of Tithes	0	5	0
	Bradwell.	The Parsonage ...	3	0	0
		Freehold Rents, &c....	5	1	4
Northton.	Northampton.	A Messuage ...	0	6	8
	Bodyngton.	Pension, &c. ...	1	13	4
Warw.	Aston Bremyncham.	Divers premises ...	18	8	4
	Thornborow.	Rent ...	0	10	0

At the time of the dissolution, too, a minute survey of the Priory buildings and premises was taken. The following is a transcript of this most interesting document as given by Dugdale, who says the original is in the Chapter House, Westminster:—

"THE MANOR OF TYKFORD.

The haull there is well coverd with tile, and haith a little chaumber adioynyng to the same, with a butte called the black butte.

Ĩm a chaumbr at the haull dore called the portche chaumb.

Ĩm a chaumber on the northpte of the haull called the pre chaumber, with a chymney, and a litle closet adioynyng thereunto, and a high chaumber over the same pertelie in dekay for lack of tylyng.

Ĩm a chaumber on the sowthpte of the haull, called the kinge chaumber, which is seled, and the selynge therof ruinows, notwithstandyng it may well be spared.

Ĩm a litle chaumber adioynyng to the kinge chaumber.

Ĩm in the kechyn court is the kechyn, and a chaumber oṽ the same tyled.

Ĩm the gate howse, and 2 upper chaumbers tyled. Ĩm a bultyng howse, with a chaumber oṽ the same tyled. Ĩm a litle stable coṽd with thack, called the prior's stable. Thies may welbe spared.

Ĩm a bakhows with 2 owens, oon greit and thother small.

Ĩm a brewhowse and 2 brewyng lede in the same.

Ĩm an eelyng howse with 2 eelyng lede in the same.

Ĩm a chaumber oṽ the brewhowse coṽd with tyle.

Ĩm a larder howse.

The cloyster is well coṽd with sklate, and the gutters therof bene leded, and the tymber work is good, and much ston there may be had and saved. It may welbe spared.

Ĩm a loo chaumber, latelie called the misericorde, with a

chymney, and an inner chaumber thereunto adioynyng.

Ītm a loo parler latelie called the farme, with a howse called the farme kechyn.

Ītm the late chapiī howse, wherein is a glased wyndow.

Ītm the dorter chaumber covd with tyle, wherein is a chymney and fyve sellę for the late monkę there.

The church there is adioynyge to the dorter howse, which is substanciallie buylded with a fair rofe of tymber work in the bodie of the said church, which conteyneth in lenght 80 fote, and in brede 21 fote.

Ītm the ile on the northside ov the belframe, the roofe whereof, and is good and substanciall tymber, which conteyneth in lenght 30 fote and in brede 21 fote.

Ītm the ile on the sowthside the belframe is substanciallie buylded in the rofe with tymber, and conteyneth like lenght and brede as the foresaid ile doeth.

Ītm the belframe is substanciallie buylded with ston, and much good tymber within the same, and 3 bellę of the value of

Ītm the chauncell there is voted with ston and tymber work ov the same, which conteyneth in lenght 45 fote and in brede 21 fote.

Ītm a litle chapell adioynyng to the chauncell, which conteyneth in lenght 16 fote and in brede 12 foote.

Ītm there be divs wyndowes as well in the church as in the chauncell that be glased, the glasse whereof is verie old and litle worth.

The seid church, with the ilez thereunto belonging, be well covd with tile, which church and chauncell may welbe spared, and much good tymber and stone there had and saved.

The utter court, which is the cūmyng into the manor, conteyneth an acr. of ground.

In prmę at the cūmyng into the seid court, on the gate is a chaumber tyled, and a chymney therein, and a lofte ov the same.

Ītm on the sowthside the gate is a litle chapell of or Ladie which is covd with tile and buylded wh studde. Ītm a litle bell in in the chapell eend. Ītm a loo parler, and a chaumber ov the same, which stond adioynyng to the seid chapell, with divs wyndowsz of new glasse, which seid chaumb is covd wh tile. Ītm on the northside the gate is a howse called the dayhowse, with a stable adioynyng to the same, which be covered with straw. Thiez may welbe spared.

Iẗm in the seid utter court is a kyln howse and a malthowse, set to gethers. The barn yard.

Iẗm a barn conteynyng 7 baies, sufficientlie buylded with good tymber, and coṽd with sklate and tyle.

Iẗm a barn of 6 bayes sufficientlie buylded wʰ tymber, and the oon side coṽd with sklate and tyle, and the other side wʰ strawe, ꝑtelie in dekay for lack of tylyng.

Iẗm a dovehowse, which is worth yeirlie

The tile, tymber, and ston of such howsez as may be spared is worth, if it be taken down be tymez,

The closez belongyng to the seid manor and p̃cell of the demesneꝭ.

There be 2 litle orchardꝭ or garden placez, with a pece of ground betwene the riṽ cont. di. acr.

The dovehowse close, wherein is a feir poole, replenysshed with carpꝭ, and the close called the watʳgate close conteyn 5 acr. Iẗm a close called the comyngꝭ, which is well replenysshed wʰ coneyes, wʰ a fyshepole in the same, conteyneth 3 acr. and di.

Iẗm a close called the long close, which conteyneth 2 acr., which seid closez lie betwene the water of Ore on the northside, and on the sowthside ꝑte on the coẽn feld called Tykford feld, and ꝑte on the closys belongyng to the Lady Seyntleger, which closez be seṽall all the hole yere. Iẗm a medow close called the castle meadowe, cont. 3 acr. which is seṽall from the feist of th' Annunciacion of our Ladie unto midsom̃, and then com̃en, which close lieth betwene the town of Tykford on the sowthside, and the riṽ on the northside, and buttꝭ on the estend on the manor place, and on the westend on Tykford bridge.

The water there is seṽall to the manoʳ from the metyng of the water of Ore and the water of Lovent unto the ꝑticon of the seid 2 watˢ, which is beneth a place in the water called Holme, and is worth yeirlie

There is in the seid closeys of asshe and elme 60 trees, oon with an other worth a pece and better, 8d.

Iẗm there be meny other small saumplerrꝭ.

There is certein arrable land and medow belongyng to the seid manoʳ, which manoʳ, wᵗ the closys, conye, dovehowse, and seṽall waterz, is in the occupac̃on of oon Andrew Stokꝭ, for the which he paieth yeirlie 5*l.*"

In the State Papers (Domestic) of October 1527 in documents

relating to costs of suppression of monasteries for the Cardinal's College are references to payments of £1 to William Rowte for the redemption of a corody granted to him by the late Prior of Tykford under the convent seal; £3 1s. 8d. to Thomas Whalley for gathering the rents of Tykforde and for his costs coming up to London and lying there the time of the audit and also £1 for keeping the courts of the late monastery; also £6 18s. 4½d. (13 January) "for the subsidie of the late monastery." There are also noted three half-yearly payments of £5 to Thomas Broke, the late prior, for his pension.

There is also among the same papers[1] an Indenture dated 20 Henry VIII. made between Lady Anne St. Leger widow of James St. Leger and co-heir of Thomas Earl of Ormond, Sir George St. Leger son and heir of said James, and John Hygden, Dean of Wolsey's College, Oxford, whereby it was agreed that the said Lady Anne and George should acknowledge by fine all their rights in the lands of the Monastery at Tickford, Chechyley, Thykthorn, Newport Pagnell, &c., to be the right of the Dean and Canons.

Cardinal Wolsey made much use of the proposed building of these Colleges to oppress religious houses, and writing to him somewhat later, the King, to whom complaints had been made, says: "They say not that all that is ill gotten is bestow'd upon the College, but that the College is the cloak for covering all mischiefs."[2]

The first stone of the Cardinal's College at Oxford was laid 15th July 1525, and the premises seized by the Crown 1529.

The College was then called King Henry the Eighth's College, and afterwards, and now, Christ Church.

At the time of the Cardinal's disgrace one of the Articles[3] addressed to the King and preferred against the Cardinal in Parliament relates curiously enough to Tickford. It runs thus:—

"XLI. Also where one Sir Edward Jones, Clerk, Parson of Crowley in the County of Buckingham, in the eighth year of your most noble Reign, let this said Parsonage with all Tythes, and other profits of the same to one William Johnson by Indenture for certain years, within which years the Dean of the said Lord

1 Domestic Series. Henry VIII. vol. 4, pt. 2. 5117 ii. 4.
2 Herbert's Henry VIII., p. 137. 3 Ibid, p. 227.

Cardinal's College in Oxford, pretended Title to a certain Portion of Tythes within the said Parsonage, supposing the said Portion to belong to the Parsonage of Chichley, which was appropriated to the Priory of Tykeford, lately suppressed, where of Truth, the Parsons of Crowley have been peaceably possessed of the said Portion, Time out of mind: Whereupon a Subpœna was directed to the said Johnson to appear before the said Lord Cardinal at Hampton Court; where without any Bill, the said Lord Cardinal committed him to the Fleet, where he remained by the space of twelve Weeks, because he would not depart with the said Portion; and at the last, upon a Recognizance made, that he should appear before the Lord Cardinal, wheresoever he was commanded, he was delivered out of the Fleet. Howbeit, as yet the said Portion is so kept from him, that he dare not deal with it."

Notwithstanding the righteous indignation of the writers of the Articles, however, there is no doubt that some sums were payable to the Priory from Crawley, although the amount of the same and their nature seems more than once, as already mentioned, to have been the subject of litigation.

The following rentals are given in 1534 under the title of Cardinal or King's College in Oxford:—

	£	s.	d.
Tickford firma Manerii	5	0	0
Redditus assis' ibidem	9	4	3
Firma molendini Caledocote ...	6	13	4
Tenths and oblations infra eccl: de Newport cõmunibus Annis	2	0	0
Divers minor 10ths in Newport ...	9	16	4
Firma decimand de Linford (Capell)	3	0	0
Pensiones and portiones in Linford		5	0
In Soulbery		5	0
In Wulston	1	6	8
In Bodington Co. Nton.	1	6	8
In Willein		10	0
In Astwood		10	0
Portio annui valoris 8 li. quae detracta est p̃ rectorem de Crawley magna ideo nil: sed salvo Jure Collegii			
Total	62	5	11

	£	s.	d.
In Chicheley Rents assize	25	7	11
Rectory of Chicheley...	10	0	0
Rectory of Aston Birmingham ...	17	6	8
Sum total	115	0	6
Reprisalia Ballivo de Newport Hundred		1	4
Antonis Cave Balliv[9] Terr[9]	2	0	0
Procurations and synodals of the Archidiacono de Buck		10	7
Pensio Vicarii de Newport	10	0	0
Cuidam Presbyters exercenti ...	1	6	8
Officium Decani			
Total	13	18	7

Cardinal Wolsey died in 1530, and six or seven years later it is recorded that Thomas, Lord Cromwell, having by special commission from the King united to King Henry the Eighth's College in Oxford the churches or chapels of Chycheley, Newporte Paynell, Aseewodde, Wyllyn, and Aston, the King by Charter dated 31st July, 1537, confirmed his action.[1]

In 33 Henry VIII., however, Tickford was, by Act of Parliament, annexed to the Honor of Ampthill, and as a result of such annexation, the Honor being subsequently given to the Russels, the Duke of Bedford as Lord thereof nominates a Coroner who to this day is empowered to hold inquests in Tickford and part of Marshend.

On 2nd February, 42 Elizabeth,[2] the Queen in consideration of the sum of £1534 6s. 8d. granted the Manor or Lordship of Tickford Mansion House and scite and circuit thereof and the Rectory of Newport Pagnell to Henry Atkins, of the City of London, Doctor of Physic, and Mary Atkins his wife. The grant included moreover the two mills called Calcott Mills: all lands in Tickford, Newport Pannell, Calcott, Northampton, Lathbury, Hardmead, Filgrave, Clifton, Sulbury, Goatehurste, Thornbury, Bodington, and Liscombe to the late Priory belonging and all rents and services attaching to such lands: and the pension and portions of Tythe in Longton which manor lordship rectory and premises were extended to the clear yearly value of £38 7s. 2d.

1 Oxfordshire Charters No. 138, Bodleian Library.

2 Pat. 42 Eliz. pt. 7.

The grant excepted and reserved expressly to the Crown the following possessions of the late Priory, namely :—

The Manor and Rectory of Chicheley, certain Lands in Sherington, the Tythes in Little Lynford, and a pension or portion in Wyllyn (then together producing a rent of £38 13s. 11d.) Pensions of 40s. issuing out of Astwood Rectory; 60s. out of Bradwell Church; and 26s. 8d. out of Bodington Rectory. A croft and lands in Tickford, late in the occupation of John Thomas, of the yearly rent of 20d. Certain lands called Tenderings Yard in Newport field of the yearly rent of 6s. 8d. Other land there of the annual rent of 10d. A tenement in Newport in the occupation of the Heir of one Broughton of the yearly rent of 3s. A tenement in Northampton late in the tenure of John Saxby of the yearly rent of 2s. Lands at Crawley late in the occupation of James Astfield of the yearly rent of 7d. Other lands in Crawley late in the tenure of the heir of one Tyrringham of the yearly rent of 5d. Other lands there late in the tenure of John Cock of the yearly rent of 6s. 3d. A Tenement in Sulburry called Arnyte's Close of the yearly rent of 3s. Lands in Bodington of the yearly rent of 47s. 8d. by the late College of Bodington payable and to be paid. One free rent of 6s. 8d. by the year issuing out of the Manor of Thornbury. Certain lands called Eckney Stocking and Gosecroft late in the tenure of Henry Evred of the yearly rent of 4s. 10d. Certain lands in the Fields of Eckney late in the occupation of Christopher Collier of the yearly rent of 8s. And certain other lands there late in the occupation of John Perkyss and others and of the rents therein specified. A free rent of 3d. there issuing out of the messuage of Richard Harton. Portion of Tythes in Great Lynford in the tenure of the Rectory there of the yearly rent of 5s. One other portion of Tythes in Sulbury of the yearly rent of 5s. by the late Abbott of Woborne payable and to be paid. And a certain pension of 10s. by the year issuing out of the Rectory of Crawley.

By the Grant, too, all advowsons relating to the premises included therein were reserved to the Crown.

In 21 James I. there was a fresh grant of the premises to Henry Atkyns "Doctor of Physic and one of the Physicians in Ordinary" of the premises mentioned in the Grant of Elizabeth and also of a close called The Hades containing 4 acres: a fishery from the meeting of the two rivers called the Ouse and Lovente unto a

certain meadow in Lathbury called the Ray Mead: lands called the Osyer Cobbs or Osyer Holmes in Newport, Chicheley, and Tickford: closes (lately parcel of the Manor of Newport Pannell) called Bury Close, Bury field, Bury Meadow, the South Hedge, Kickle otherwise Kickelett, Kickle Meadow, Kingsholm, West Meade, Hooke, West Meadow, Ox Mead, Close Water Leaze, New Close, Sallage, Sallage Mead, Eight Acres, Honyland in Portfield, Sheepcote Close, Flaggy Holme, the Shoulder of Mutton, the Rabbit Warren and two grain Mills in Newport.

Dr. Atkins had evidently been gradually working his way up.

On 14th April, 1604, there is amongst the State Papers (Domestic Series) a warrant to pay to Dr. Atkins, physicisn, sent to Scotland to attend Prince Charles, 50s. per diem.

On 3rd July following Dr. Henry Atkins, writing from Dunfermline to Lord Cecil, as to the health of the Prince, says, evidently with satisfaction, that "he is recovering and is beginning to walk alone, which he never did before," and states that they will begin the journey to England on the 17th.

On 21st September in the same year there is a warrant to pay £40 to Edward Phillips, apothecary, sent into Scotland with Dr. Atkins to Prince Charles.

In February, 1611, the Doctor seems to have had a return of some illness to which he was subject, for he writes the Earl of Salisbury that he has relapsed into his former illness, and, should it prove fatal, recommends his son to his favour.

On 8th September, 1611, he was required to send a horse and man properly equipped, to the muster of train bands for Herts on Oct. 1st, and after some references to him in his professional capacity there is a note on 13th April, 1614, of a grant to Dr. Adkins by purchase of certain lands, parcel of the Manor of Newport Pagnell, passed by special favour, though belonging to the Queen's Manor of Ampthill.

The Doctor, no doubt, made the best use he could of his position, and on 22nd May, 1605, there is a grant to him and his heirs of certain concealed lands in Surrey, and a little later, on 21st Aug., he writes to the Earl of Salisbury complaining of the revocation of the grant made to him of the old Priory House, &c., at Guildford, upon the false representation of Sir Thomas Gorges.

Tickford Park came into the possession of the Doctor some years later.

This Park is mentioned in the Charter of 5 Edward II., the tythes of venison therein being granted to the Prior and Monks, but the Park itself remained part of Newport Manor, and with that Manor was acquired by Henry VIII. from John St. Leger and annexed to the Honor of Ampthill in the 33rd year of the King's reign.

As already mentioned, it was granted to Elizabeth for life by Edward VI., and she by her charter, dated 5th February, 3 and 4 Phillip and Mary, at Hatfield, granted the office of Keeper of Tickford Park to George Annesley and James Annesley, his son, for both their lives. [1]

It appears to have continued in the hands of the Crown until 11th November, 1593 (34 Elizabeth), when, [2] with many other parks, it was granted to Thomas Crompton, Robert Wright, and Gell Meyricke, their heirs and assigns, the pannage and herbage therein (except sufficient pasture, for the wild beasts, stags and deer therein to the number of 40), being then demised to George Annesley, gentleman, and James, his son, by Letters Patent dated 25th June, 15 Elizabeth, for 21 years, and afterwards by Letters Patent dated 5th May, 24 Elizabeth, for 40 years, beginning from the end of the term of 21 years, to William Piers, gentleman.

A rental to the Crown of £4 per annum during the terms created by the Annesley and Piers grants, and of £8 thereafter, [3] was reserved by the grant.

By virtue of a grant by Crompton and others in 45 Elizabeth the park came into the hands of the Fortescue family, and on 6th October, 1620, it was in consideration of £4500 granted by Lady Alice Fortescue, widow, late wife of the Right Honorable Sir John Fortescue, late Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Francis Fortescue, of Salden, Knight, son and heir of Sir John, Sir William Fortescue, Knight, brother of Sir Francis, and John Fortescue, of Salden, Esq., son and heir apparent of Sir Francis, to Dr. Henry Atkins.

On 15th May, 1625, an order was given by Charles I., under the Privy Seal, for Letters Patent to be made for Henry Adkins, Esq., M.D., for faithful services rendered to his father and himself,

1 Dodsworth MS., cxlvi., 65. 2 Pat. Rolls, 34 Elizabeth, pt. 4.

3 This rent, with £7 reserved out of Mills, was sold during the Commonwealth to Rich. Wagstaffe, of Ravensdon, Beds, in Sept., 1651, for cijxx xv li.—Fee Farm Rents Calendar.

granting to him the office of Physician Ordinary, with an annuity of £100 during his natural life.

Dr. Atkins died on 22nd September, 10 Charles I., and by an Inquisition [1] taken at Southwark on the 2nd February, 10 Charles I., it was found that at the time of his decease he was seised of the premises included in the two Tickford grants, of Tickford Park, 16a. 3r. of land in Tickford Fields, and of common of pasture for three horses, six cows or heifers, and thirty sheep in the commonable places of Tickford, lately purchased from Thomas Webb, clerk, and of divers estates in Essex, the Manor of Clapham, Surrey, and other possessions.

The Jurors presented moreover that certain of the premises, including Tickford Manor, the Closes in Newport, &c., were held by the Doctor upon the trusts declared by a Settlement made on 22nd June, 17 James I., in contemplation of the marriage of his son and heir, Henry Atkins, with Annabella, daughter and heir of John Hawkins, gent., deceased.

At the date of his father's death Henry Atkins (then a Knight) was of the age of 40, and his wife, Annabella, was living and "in full life," Tickford Manor, Newport Rectory and Mills being then held of the King by knight's service, that is to say, by the twentieth part of a knight's fee, and the other Tickford and Newport properties in free and common socage.

Sir Henry Atkins died 8th July, 14 Charles I., and in the Inquisition, [2] taken on the 30th of the following month at Guildford, most, if not all, of the lands referred to in the Inquisition taken on his father's death are mentioned, and in addition certain lands the property of his wife and divers parcels of land in Tickford Fields, purchased of Anthony Potter, and then in the tenure of Anthony Potter, one Withers, clerk, John Harley, and Henry Knight.

The Inquisition also refers to Sir Henry's will made 6th May then last past (in which mention is made of an Aunt Janes, to whom an annuity of £10 is granted), to Henry and Thomas, his second and third sons, and to a daughter.

The Jurors found that Richard Atkins, aged twelve, on the 29th September before taking the Inquisition, was Sir Henry's son and next heir, and that Lady Annabella was still "in full life."

It is stated that Bury Close, Bury Field, and the other closes

1 Inq. post-mortem, 10 Car. I. Dr. Henry Atkins.

2 Inq. post-mortem, 14 Car. I. Sir Henry Atkins.

were held in socage and were worth yearly to 13th February, 1639, 20s., "but afterwards £4, because they were demised to one William Downall by the Lady Elizabeth, late Queen of England, for the same term."

In 1676 Tickford Park, and apparently, too, the other lands in Newport and Tickford, were settled by a S[r] Richard Atkyns on himself for life, with remainder to his son in fee.

The Lansdowne MS. (712, fol. 122) states that in the Church of Newport Pagnel, within the altar rails against the wall there is a monument, on which there is this inscription :—

"Here (under) Lyeth the Body of Sr. Richard Atkins, of Clapham, in Surry, Bart. (son of Richard Atkins, of Clapham, Bart.) and dame Rebeccah, his wife, daughter of Sr. Edmund Wright als Buckley, of Swackley, in Middlesex) the Valuable Accomplishments of (his) Mind and Body recommended him to the Love and Esteem of all that knew him, and Qualified him for the Service of his King and Country in a double capacity as Representative of the Gentry of Buckinghamshire in the High Court of Parliament and as Colonel of a Regiment of Foot (under his most Sacred Majesty King William), both of which Employments he honourably discharged with unbiassed Integrity and unalterable Fidelity. (He might have been said to be truly happy, being universally beloved by his worthy acquaintance and blessed with a numerous and hopeful progeny, had not the latter part of his Life been clouded with some domestick Troubles, caused by the Fault of others; not his own; and which ought to be Covered with a Veil of Silence. But these Misfortunes, though in a great Measure they hastened his end, yet could they not take from him the well-deserved character of) a True, Honest, English Gentleman, a Man of strict Honour, and a hearty Lover of his King and Country. (To preserve the Memory of which singular good Abilities and as an Instance of her tender Affections to him The Lady Rebecca Atkins his mother and Sole Executrix has caused this Stone to be laid over him). He died November 26, 1696, in the 42nd year of his Age."

The monument, with a coat of arms, is still in existence, and is now in the chancel wall at the side of the altar. The inscription is, however, much shorter than that given above, nearly all the words in brackets and some others being omitted and the rest varied in places.

Tickford Park was afterwards sold by the Atkyns family to that of the Uthwatts, and by them to Sir William Hart, of whose heirs Joseph Jacques purchased it.

Hannah Jacques, widow of the last named purchaser, married Frederick Hendrick Van Hagen, who thus became possessed of it in her right. It was advertised for sale in June, 1815, under the description of "Tickford Park, in the parish of Newport Pagnell, comprising the Manor or Lordship of Tickford, with the annual quit rents, courts, and royalties thereto belonging, and 556 Acres of land lying in a ring fence. . . . The whole tithe-free and land tax redeemed." [1] A mural monument in the Church records the death of Henry Van Hagen, of Tickford Park, on 18th June, 1832, at the age of forty. The estate is now and has for many years past been the property of Lord Carrington.

Tickford Manor and other properties, after some intermediate descents, became vested in Sir Richard Atkyns, who by his will, dated 1st January, 1756, devised the same to Trustees to sell, and on the exercise of the power of sale in 1758 Mr. Thomas Hooton became the purchaser. He devised the property to his only daughter, Sarah, the wife of Philip Hoddle Ward, from whom it came by purchase to William Powell, Esq. The Tickford Estate was later in the hands of Mrs. Massey, and is now the property of P. Butler, Esq. The Inclosure of Tickford Field in 1808 is referred to in the account of Newport Manor.

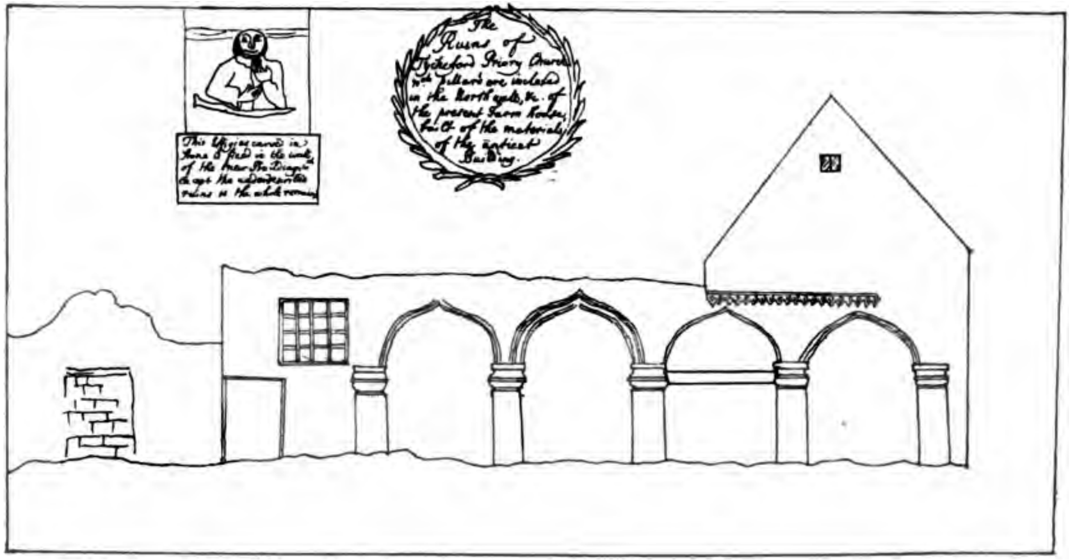
The Caldecot properties seem to have been sold at the same time by the Atkins Trustees to William Backwell, a London banker, who in 1769 bequeathed them to William Harwood, who assumed the name of Backwell. They were in the hands of the Backwells in 1800, but seem to have been sold soon after.

The Priory Buildings gradually disappeared, and Browne Willis in 1703 says, "At the entrance is the old gateway, which consists of a larger and lesser portal, the lesser of which is now standing, but the arch of the larger, being fallen down, is converted to an ordinary pair of piers. These arches comprised the outward wall of a spatious gatehouse, wherein, as 'tis said, hung the Bells appropriated to the use of the Convent." [2]

Besides this there were five pillars which had supported the nave of the Priory Church, with the arches turned over them.

1 "Northampton Mercury," May, 1815.

2 The conjecture is erroneous. Vide description of premises on dissolution.


The Ruins of Tykeford Priory Church
wch Pillars are inclosed in the North gable &c. of the present Farm House, built of the materials of the antient Building.

Three of these had been built into a farm house, and in a stone near the entrance there was fixed in the wall the effigy of a monk leaning on his hand.

William Cole,[1] the antiquary, writing on 1st April, 1767, says:

"I went there (Tickford) about three or four years ago to see the scite, but nothing now remains worthy of notice. The person who now owns it, one Mr. Hooton, a farmerly sort of man, has lately built a neat square House of stone upon the Ruins of the Older House which was built out of the remains of the Convent. It stands low, and commands a pretty view of the river Ouse, which runs very near it."

Within the grounds on the supposed site of the Abbey Burial Ground[2] is a brick wall twelve feet high enclosing vaults erected by and formerly used as a burial place for the Hooton family. On its western side is an obelisk twenty-five feet high, bearing the following inscription:—

"This Obelisk was erected by Thomas Hooton to preserve the Memory of Sarah his wife, daughter of John Walton, of Spratton, in the County of Northampton, who departed this life the 5th day of December, 1768, and was interred near this place the 10th, aged 47 years.

"In this vault are deposited the remains of John Walton Hooton, son of Thomas and Sarah Hooton, who departed this life December 14th, 1794, aged 31 years.

"Likewise of Susanna Hooton, Daughter of Thomas and Sarah Hooton, who departed this life December 1st, 1799, aged 44 years.

"Likewise of Thomas Hooton Ward, only Son of Philip and Sarah Ward and Grandson of Thomas Hooton, who departed this life January 22nd, 1800, aged 2 years.

"Likewise of Thomas Hooton, Esquire, who departed this life December 13th, 1804, aged 83 years.

"The mortal remains of Sarah Ward, Daughter of Thomas Hooton, Esquire, and wife of Philip Hoddle Ward, Esquire, were deposited in this vault November 27th, 1831. The remembrance of true worth will ever speak for her to whom this last tribute of affection is placed."

It is somewhat remarkable that besides the above-mentioned

1 MSS. British Museum. Cole.

2 Several skeletons have from time to time been found in the grounds.

private burial place there are three others within the Parish, namely, that of Mark Slingsby, said to be buried in Tickford, as elsewhere mentioned; that of one Mary Church, in Marsh End, in what was once part of the garden of Mr. William Hooton, it being proposed to use the ground as a Baptist burial ground;[1] and that of Dr. Renny in Green End, in private grounds once his own.

The Doctor left minute written instructions as to his burial, directing that his corpse should not be buried for a fortnight, and not then unless it was apparent death had taken place. He further directed, "having always had an utter aversion to be buried in a Churchyard," that the interment should take place in his orchard in ground then stumped out, in the morning, without any pomp or ceremony, and that if any memorial were erected he should recommend "a small pyramid about ten feet in height." On his death his wishes were respected, the Rev. William Bull conducting the funeral service. The obelisk, too, was erected, and bears, in accordance with the Doctor's wish, the following inscription:— "P. Renny, M.D. Natus XIV. Augusti, MDCCXXXIV. Denatus XIV. Februarii, MDCCCV."

THE TICKFORD PRIORS.[2]

Robert de Bohun	Occurs anno 1187 about a hundred years after foundation of Cell.
Walter	Occurs 1st Jan., 1199.
Robert "Hamelyn"[3]	A.D. 1205.
Bernard	A.D. 1210.
Hugh	Resigned in 1220. His successor was a monk of this Convent elected in 1220.
William	He was expelled by the Convent

1 In February, 1899, workmen while employed in erecting some cottages in Silver Street, for Mr. W. Cowley, found a skeleton a few feet below the surface, and it is possible that it was that of Mary Church, although there is no documentary evidence to prove it was the supposed site of burial.

2 Most of the names subsequent to 1275 have been compared with the Lincoln Registers. For the others Browne Willis's list, Coles MS. copy, in British Museum, is the principal authority.

3 Notes from Muniments of Magdalen Coll. Oxford (Macray 1882) with reference to seals refer to one of Robert "Hamelyn," Prior of Newport Pagnel, circa 1220.

	of Marmonstier in 1228; but was restored upon submission (Chronicon de Dunstable).
John de Holna or Colna	A monk of Spalding who was made prior in 1232. There seems some doubt as to this prior.
Oliver	Occurs prior in 1259.
Gilbert	Occurs about 1262. He resigned in 1267, and was succeeded by
Bartholomew	Who was presented by the Monastery of Turon Non. May, 1267. On his death
Reginald de Cossam	Was presented 11 Kal. Nov:, 1270, by the Bishop by lapse.
Reginald de Bernewell	If he is not the same person with Reginald de Cossam, occurs in 1275.
Simon de Reda	Also occurs prior in 1275 and 1290, and was removed 4th July, 1291.
Geoffrey de Vig	Occurs A.D. 1292: upon his resignation
William de Menevere or Maunreri	A monk of the Greater Monastery of Turon was elected by that Monastery 4 Non. July 1302.
Fulk de Champaigneces	A monk of the Greater Monastery of Turon was admitted 17 Kal. July 1332, upon Menevere's resignation. He was still prior in 1337.
Guillerinus de Tangueterre	Monk of Turon was admitted on the Ides of August, 1349, on the presentation of "Simonis Ministri Conventus de Marmonstier."
John de Garys or Garry	Occurs in 1352 and 1355.
John de Fresnay	1362.
Francis Quatresoulz	Was admitted 13 Kal. Apr. 1364 on presentation of Turon Monastery. Not said how vacant.
William de Alneto	Was admitted prior on the presentation of the same monastery Id. Feb. 1364.
John Drien or Dreu	Occurs in 1383 and 1400 and again in 1416, when he was presented to

	Newport Vicarage, to which it was about this time agreed to pay the Vicar a stipend of £10 in lieu of his dues.
Thomas Chace	1419.
John Carlell	Occurs 1431. Upon whose death,
Robert Blythe	A monk of St. Andrew's, Northampton, was appointed Feb. 10th, 1433, by Joane, Queen of England, by grant for life from Henry IV., her late husband.
Thomas Darnton	Was elected June 18th, 1465, on the resignation of Blythe, at the presentation of John Parke, prior of the Holy Trinity at York.
William Kyrkby	Was admitted 1st December, 1468, according to the form of a certain composition between Oliver, once Bishop of Lincoln, and the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln and the prior of Tickford, on the resignation of Darnton. He resigned in 1475, and was succeeded by
William Pymberton	A monk of St. Mary's, Tickford, of the Order of St. Benedict, who was presented January 4th, 1475, by the prior of Holy Trinity, York, Vicar General in England, of the Abbot of the Monastery of Tours.
William Eynesham	Was also presented by the prior of Holy Trinity, York, on 27th May, 1499, on the decease of Pymberton. In 1501 he was made abbot of Whitby, and resigning Tickford was succeeded by
Thomas York	Late monk of Whitby, who was presented by the prior above mentioned 9th Nov., 1501. In 1503 he was made prior of St. Andrew's, Northampton.

Thomas Broke

A monk of the order of St. Benedict was presented by the York prior on the resignation of York, 22nd Aug., 1503. In 1497 he had been delegated to take care of this priorship, on Pymberton's superannuation, and had been prior of Snelshal. He occurs as prior, 1514, 1520, and 1523, and was Rector of Broughton in 1527. In the State Papers (Vol. 4) is this entry: "Item the xxvj. day of Marche an°. rr. H. viij xvij to Thomas Broke late priour of Tykeforde his halfyeres penc̃on due at the feast of thannunciation of o^r ladie last past vli."

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PART III.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

NEWPORT CHURCH AND ITS CHANTRY.

WHEN Fulc Painel, in the reign of William Rufus, founded the Priory of Tickford he gave,[1] amongst other things, to the Monks there, to their own proper use, the Church of Newport and one Hide of Land in the Field of Newport, which was the Glebe of the same Church. At that time, therefore, if not sooner, there was a Church in the town, although it is not until 1246, as will be seen from the list given elsewhere, that the record of Vicars commences in the Lincoln Registers.

On the 10th of October in the eleventh year of Edward II. an Inquisition[2] was held at Newport Paynel to ascertain whether it would be to the prejudice of the King if Richard Burgess was allowed to grant four messuages, forty acres of land, three acres of meadow, and 13s. 4½d. rent, with their appurtenances, in Newport Paynel and Chicchele, to a Chaplain to daily celebrate Mass in the Church of the Blessed Peter of Newport Paynel for the soul of the same Richard and the souls of his ancestors and successors. The jurors finding that such grant would not be to the hurt of the King, a little later the King, on the 2nd May,[3] granted a licence in mortmain to Richard Burgeys to assign to some Chaplain and his

1 Pat. 5 Edward II., already quoted, p. 71. Vide also pp. 63, 72 ante.

2 Inq. ad quod dampnum, 11 Edward I., No. 105.

3 Rot. Pat., 11 Edward II., pars. 11, m. 18.

successors the before mentioned premises in order that he and they might daily celebrate mass for the souls of the same Richard, his ancestors and successors, and for the souls of John de Sumery, and Lucy his wife, and all the faithful departed.

In the reign of the next Edward[1] a reference to the light of St. Peter occurs, for on the Tuesday next after the Feast of St. Alban the Martyr, in the 23rd year of the reign of King Edward, the third after the Conquest, John atte Ok of Haversham, the miller of the Priory of Tykeford, granted to Alexander Wocche, the porter of the said Priory, a messuage with its appurtenances in Tykeford between the tenement of the Prior of Tykeford on the one side and the tenement of Alice Syker on the other, to hold the same to the aforesaid Alexander, his heirs and assigns for ever, of the chief Lord of the fee, by the due and accustomed services and rendering annually from that time forth six silver pence to the Light of Saint Peter in the Chancel of Newport Paynel at that Feast of the Lord's Nativity.

In the Inquisitiones Nonarum, made under an Act of 14 Edward III., there is the following entry under the heading of the Deanery of Newport:[2] —

"NEWPORT WITH VICARAGE AND WITH LITTLE LYNFORD.

"TAXES XXXVIJ MARKS.

"The value of the ninth in the same parish, together with a ninth of the temporalities of the Prior of Tykeford, by presentment of William Solie, Richard Pyritone, Roger le Mareschal, William de Miltone, John de Rodene, and John le Schereman, xviij$^{li.}$, and not more, because they say that one carucate of land in the field of the lordship lies untilled which is usually ploughed and sown, and they say that the smith and the miller have gone away this year by reason of the dryness of the summer, and that there are no markets or cattle."

The value was ascertained in order to enable the King to take it for two years as a tax towards the expenditure in respect of the Scotch and French wars.

In another Inquisition,[3] taken at Aylesbury on the Wednesday next after the Feast of Saint Ambrose, in the 17th year of Edward III., amongst other benefices in the Archdeaconry of Buckingham

1 Ancient Deeds, P.R.O., A. 179. 2 Inq. Nonarum, p. 335.
3 Inq., 17 Edward III. No. 6 (now 69).

belonging to the presentation or collation of alien monks, it is stated that the Prior of Tykeford is the Rector of the Church of Newport Paynel and the Chapel of Little Lynford annexed to the same Church, in the Deanery of Newport, and the presentation of the Vicar of the same Church, with the aforesaid Chapel, when vacant, belongs to the said Prior, and that it is not vacant beyond the prescribed time, and the said Vicarage is taxed at vij. marks per annum.

John Amys, who was presented to the Vicarage in 1332, in 1338 exchanged or tried to exchange his benefice for that of William de Stanwigge of All Saints', Bedford,[1] but the exchange can hardly have been carried through, or at any rate been lasting, for from another entry in the Patent Rolls it appears he again in 1340 made an exchange with William de Herlaston, of Benstede, in the Diocese of Winchester.[2]

About the time of the latter exchange Amys had a serious dispute with the Prior of Tickford, and from a grant of oyer and terminer,[3] dated 12th April, 1340, it appears that John Amys, described as of Twyford, Vicar of the Church of Newport Paynel, complained that Fulc, Prior of Tykford, William the "priour esquier," of Tykford, Peter "supplych̃ de" Tykford, and others had lately hostilely besieged his house at Tykford, in which he then was, broken the doors and windows, and when he tried to come out had insulted, beaten, wounded and wickedly ill-treated him so that his life was in danger, and that they had also taken and carried away his goods and chattels to the amount of £10, and used such threats as to his person and burning his house if he returned that he dare not do so.

The result of the hearing is not to be found; but Amys left Newport.

It would appear probable that this house was the traditional Vicarage at Tickford, and there is a deed executed about this date, namely, on Wednesday in the Feast of St. Margaret the Virgin, 1335, whereby William de Wenrych, Vicar of Aston, granted to Robert de Wenrych, clerk, a tenement in Tykeford, with its appurtenances, next to the tenement of Richard de Pyrytone, which extended from the foot of the bridge of Tykeford up to the garden of the Vicar of Newport.[4]

1 Pat. Rolls, 12 Edw. III., pt. 1, m. 10.
2 Ibid, 14 Edw. III., pt. 1, m. 30.
3 Ibid 14 Edward III., pt. 1., m. 20d.
4 Ancient Deeds, A. 181.

In Willis' MSS.[1] there are several wills mentioned which contain interesting references to the church, which seems to have been partially or wholly rebuilt just about the time of the dissolution of Tickford Priory in 17 Henry VIII.

The following are some of the references, which have been amplified and corrected from the originals which are now at Somerset House :—

7th March, 1487 —John Cordell wills to be buried within the Chapel of Saint Mary, and gave a Tenement to the Fraternity of Saint Mary upon condition that the Wardens of that Fraternity should find his lamp continually to burn every Lord's day and feast at both vespers, mattins, and mass. He also gave 13s. 4d. equally between the four orders of friars who were limitours (i.e., licensed to beg) in the parish; 40d. to the two bridges; and 12d. to All Souls' light.

2nd January, 1506 —Joane Kyrnel wills to be buried in Saint Peter and Saint Paul's church of Newport Pagnell near her Husband.

10th November, 1509—John Warren requested that he might be buried in the church of the Apostles Peter and Paul of Newport; gave 20s. towards buying a chalice for St. Katherine's altar; "xijd. to All Sowlys lyght"; 20d. to the Fraternity of Our Blessed Lady the Virgin in Newport; and "vjd. to the makyng of the grett bell."

16th November, 1520—Edmund Holkot, of Tykford, gave to the "bylding of the churche of Newporte half an acre of whete of Sowmedehill; to all sowlyn light a bz of barley and to the bellys a bz barley."

5th September, 1521—Richard Garrat wills to be buried in the chapel of St. Nicholas in the church of Newport Pagnell, and gave in name of mortuary his best animal; to the high

1 Willis' MS., 5839 Add. MSS., British Museum.

altar of Newport Pagnell four measures of barley; to the bells in the church four measures of barley; to the use of the church one quarter of barley and to the bridges half a quarter of barley.

6th March, 1521 —Nicholas Burges gave 10s. to the building the church.

A little later, the body of the church probably being built, there are the following items:—

12th May, 1542 —Alice Cropthorne gave 3s. 4d. "to the bilding of the steple."

In the year 1543 —Reference to All Hallowes Light and St. Nicholas Chapel in the church.

17th October, 1543 —Thomas Walley willed to be buried "nye to the doure yt goeth into Our Lady Chapell," and gave 40s. to ye building of ye Steple; 4d. to ye high altar; 8d. to ye bell there; and 8d. apiece to the two bridges.

4th May, 1548 —William Stokes, of Tickford, wills 20s. to finishing Newport Steeple, &c., as mentioned elsewhere.

In 1556, on the occasion of Bishop White's visitation of Lincoln Diocese, by Commission from Cardinal Pole, Newport Paynel was presented for having no Vicar, because the stipend was so small. It was further stated that several vicarages the Rectories whereof belonged to the Cardinal were so small that they remained void for some years; as Litlington, Dunton, Bedford Paule, Newport Panel.[1]

Towards the end of his reign Henry VIII. decided to suppress all chantries and to seize their possessions, and the following entry as to the Burgess chantry in "Newporte Pannell" is to be found in the Chantry Certificates:—

"The Chauntrye w^t^in the pishe of Saynte peter & paule there fownded By Richerd Burges to thintente to fynde a prieste to synge mass at thaltare of o^r^ laydie at viij^te^ of the clocke cõmonlye.

"The said Chauntrie is fownded w^t^in the pishe churche of Newporte aforesaid where ther be DC houselinge people & ther is but this prieste to helpe the vicare there to mynystre to theyme in

1 Strype's Memorials, vol. 3, chap. 37, p. 295.

tymes of necessitie and so (is very necessarye).

"This chauntrie is of therly value of xlvj. s. whereof

Paid to Anthony Cave xd. & John White xd. for rents resolute	xxd.
And so Remaynethe for the priests Salarye	xliijs. iiijd.

"There belongeth to this chauntrie nether goods catalls ornamts ne Juells but all are fownde by the pishisene.

"Ther hath bene no dissolucione pchace or obteignynge of anye pte of the possessiones or goods of the said Chauntrie sithe the iiijth of februarye in the xxvijth yere of the kings maties reigne."

Another Chantry Certificate about 2 Edward VI. (Bucks Cert. 5 No. 29) has the following:—"Newporte Pannell. A Chauntrie ffounded wthin the said towne. In lands teñts Rents and ffermes belonginge vnto the said Chauntrie within the towne aforesaid worth by yere ljs. whereof in Reprisals xxd and reñ [clere] xlixs. iiijd. Item there is one sr Richarde Donne clerk Incumbent of the saide Chauntrie of the age of lvj yeres and is of honest conversation &c."

After the dissolution of Monasteries, as will be gathered from the list of Vicars, the right of presentation to Newport Church seems to have become vested in the Crown until, in the reign of Mary, there was a grant of the advowson of Newport Pannell to Thomas Bishop of Lincoln and his successors, to be held by him and them in frankalmoign.[1] Elizabeth, however, soon after possessed herself of the right of presentation, which continued in the Crown till 1859.

From the Bishop's Registers it appears that in 1605 the vicarage was worth £10 a year; the patron was the Lord Chancellor; the Incumbent Tho. Yarrow, B.A.; and the number of communicants 806.

On 2nd October, in the 2nd year of Elizabeth, there is a grant[2] to George Howard, Knight, of, amongst other properties, "Our one tenement and our one garden adjoining the same with their appurtenances situate lying and being near the red lyon in Neweporte Pannell in the said County of Buckingham and our one other tenement with its appurtenances in Neweporte Pannell

1 Pat. Rolls 5 and 6, Phil. and Mary, p. 4, m. 27.

2 Pat. 2 Eliz. p. 13 m. (4) 31.

aforesaid situate near the rivulets on parts of the south and west of the same town and lately to the Chantry founded in the church of Newport Pannell aforesaid formerly belonging and appertaining."

In 31 Elizabeth, on 22nd March, there is another grant[1] to Walter Copinger and Thomas Butler of London, gentlemen of, inter alia, "Our Chantry in the parish of Saint Peter in Newporte Pannell aforesaid founded by one Richard Burgess and all the lands tenements and hereditaments to the same Chantry belonging."

The grant was made subject to the payment of 6s. 8d. annually in respect of the Chantry premises and the Hospital Chapel and premises thereby also granted.

Weever in his "Funeral Monuments" on p. 30 says, "In the north aile of the parish church of Newport Painell, in Buckinghamshire, in the year 1619, was found the body of a man whole and perfect; laid downe or rather leaninge downe, north and south: all the concavous parts of his body and the hollownesse of every bone, as well ribs as other, were filled up with solid lead. The skull, with the lead in it, doth weigh thirty pounds, six ounces, which, with the neckbone, and some other bones (in like manner full of lead) are reserved and kept in a little chest in the said church, neare to the place where the corps was found; there to be showne to strangers as reliques of admiration. The rest of all the parts of his body are taken away by gentlemen neare dwellers, or such as take delight in rare antiquities. This I saw."

Cole says that the head was, in 1776, preserved in the Library of St. John's College, Cambridge, while "Mavor's British Tourist" (vol. vi., p. 237), published in 1800, says that at St. John's College is "a singular curiosity, a leaden scull, which belonged to a complete skeleton, found in Newport Pagnel church."

Mention of some of the bones having been seen about 1810 in Newport church by Mr. Spurden, and of there being some bones in the same condition, probably from Newport, in the College Library, is made in the East Anglian (Vol. 1, p. 212). The College Librarian, however, writing on 20th July, 1899, says, "There is no trace or record of any such skull having been, at any time, in the possession of the Library."

The Church Registers record the fact that "Mr. Richard

[1] Pat. 31 Eliz. p. 7 m. 31.

Cleward living by the op . . field did preache in Newport parish 20 August 1631."

About this time one of the Newport Vicars seems to have incurred the displeasure of the celebrated Richard Napier, for in a MS. in the Bodleian Library[1] entitled an "Argumentative discourse by Richard Napier, Rector of Linford, against the Minister of Newport," occurs the following passage, "But here perhaps you will say who denyeth that the testimonyes of profane writers may be mingled with God's worde. I answere even you your selfe or else you would not set on your friends to wish vs to leave it. At Olney I remember in a sermon I vsed on only testimony of a heathen poet to witt that of Horace . . . And a frind of yours and of your speciall acquaintance, set on as I suppose by you, or els I suppose . . . would not, at the first right and that in the presence of a knight and lady at dinner time, have found fault with the alledging of this on testimony . . . Wherefore have you sinc you left Olny and came to Newport sette on another frind et ex intimis to advice vs to leave it as a thing that may not well stand with the sufficiency, purity and maiesty of gods word . . "

The MS. is curious as there does not appear anything in it itself to show that Napier, as stated in the printed catalogue, wrote it. Napier was at Linford from $15\frac{89}{90}$—1634.

In 1635[2] there seems to have been some trouble as to a pew, as the following letter cr petition, taken from the State Papers, testifies:—

"Newport februarii the 8th, 1635.

To the Right worp^ll Sr John Lambe.

Whereas yor wor^pp did order that one James Willson gent. should have a seate in o^r Churche formerly builded by our Inhabitants for 4^li wch cost some 8^li buildinge for ministers & straungers to sitt in: beinge a Thorough fayer towne: and the wante of it is a great trouble & disgrace to o^r Churche haveinge noe where to place o^r ministers & straungers when they come vpon the Lord's day: yett notwithstandinge Mr. Willson will not pay ye 4^li but bids vs to come by it howe wee can: Wherefore we most humbly intreate yor wor^pp to send vs yor order in writinge to have it againe for y^e same vse it was builded for and noe other: wch will doe o^r Churche more good then 20^li in money can doe vs: And soe wee

1 Ashmole 1148, viii. f. 211.
2 State Papers, Domestic, 1635-6, Vol. 313 (60).

humbly take o^{9} leaue and e$\tilde{u}$ pray for the prosperous estate of yor wo^{pp} and all yo^{rs}

Anthony Potter, Thomas Barnes, John Draper, Thomas Potter, Arthur Umphrey, William Holman, Henrye Knolles, Anthony Potter Jun., Hugh Dalbone, Thomas Williamson."

Another, and a little later document,[1] refers to some charge against Anthony Potter, apparently. It runs thus:—

"To the right worr^{ll} S$^{r.}$ John Lambe knight

May it please your good Wor^{pp} we Inhabittants of Newport Pagnell and Neighbours therevnto adioyneinge are bould to certefie your good wor^{pp} in the behalfe of Anthony Potter of Newport aforesaid that the said Anthony Potter in all our knowledge hath euer beene and soe continueth a man soe trewly conformable to the government and dissipline of the Church of England. That the said Anthony Potter hath alsoe beene and nowe is a stronge opposer against seperatists and Nonconformists and all that oppose ye said government. And in trewe tesstimony hereof we have herevnto sett our hands. And humbly take our leaves, Georg Nutt, Thomas Barnes, William White, Simon Younger rector of Emberton, Matthew Coney, John Mallet, Thomas Webb rector of Clifton Raynes, Samuel Cuningham, Thomas Potter, Jonas Church, Richard Conie, Richard Hull, and Thomas White, John Draper, Thomas Daves, Matthew Cuper, Churchwardens."

On 11th October, 1637, the condition of the Church is thus described: "The Church porch is in great decay & wants a dore & the howse adjoyning to be taken away. A window at the east end of the south Isle dawbd vp as it seemeth. The part of the mounds of the churchyard & the west part are hedges. 2 pinnacles wanting vpon the vpper battlem^{ts} of the south part of the church. All the windowes of the south Isle partly dawbed vp ye Windowes on the North side of the Chancell dawbed vp & the same side in the stone worke in decay. A window in ye north Ile partly dawbed up. The windowes not sufficient in the glasse especially the chancell windowes. The Register Booke is imperfect therefore to be certified what yeares are wanting. Another surplace to be provided & the surplace wch they have to be made vp close before. Some of the butterices in decay but especiall those of the steeple

1 State Papers, Domestic, Chas. I., 1636, Vol. 339, No 58.

& the steeple round about the upper part of the stone work."[1]

In the Records of the local Ecclesiastical Courts[2] for 7 April, 1638, and those of the succeeding year, under Newport, are the following amongst other items :—

"Dorothie ux Jo: Thorpe for not living wth her husband.

Valentine Hall fama Sorcery for stolen goods.

Christopher Hoare a recusant.

M^r. Willson wch hath not p^d his levy of xviijs.

Robert Middleton for the like being v s.

William Bagg of Tickford Parke simiłr vijs. vjd.

Mr. Austin and his wife, James Laighton, John Draps, his wife and his daughter, Sisly Hartley and Thomas Hartly for absenting themselves from theire parish church on New yeares day last."

The Bishop's visitation Books for 1611 and 1612, after referring to various excommunications and to sins of incontinence and drunkenness, refer to the cases of Robert Bacon, Robert Risely, and Antonius Paine, who "continuallie travelled to sell bone lace on ye Sabaoth day," and also to the case of Anthony Dawes "who did not go to church one Sabaoth day in a moneth."

As will be seen, the range of subjects dealt with is extensive and peculiar.

There were formerly two chained books in the Church, one of them "The Defence of the Apology of the Church of England," being kept in the South Aisle.

The following Terrier, dated 31 Jan., 1639, is given by Cole :—

"No Homestall or Vicarage House. A Close in Tickford containing 3 Roods.[3] An Acre of Meadow lying in the West Meadow of Newport. Two half Acres and 2 Roods of Arable in the parish of Chicheley upon the Nether Hay Furlong. Half an Acre in the Middle Field of Tickford. Half an Acre in Caldecote Field. Both Arable.

"A stipend of 10l. p. An. paid out of the Impropriation to the Vicar."

From the Minutes of the Committee for Plundered Ministers under date 22 July, 1646, it appears that by virtue of an order of both Houses of Parliament of 2 May then last, the Committee ordered that the yearly sum of £50 be paid out of the profits of

1 State Papers, Domestic, 1637, Vol. 369 (59).

2 Ibid, 1638, Vol. 387 (68) and 1638-9, Vol. 406 (80).

3 This was doubtless the Vicarage Close hereafter referred to.

the impropriate Rectory of Chilton Bucks, sequestered from John Cooke delinquent, to and for the increase of the maintenance of the Minister of the parish Church of Newport Pagnell, the Vicarage there not being above £14 per annum, and Newport being a market town and populous, and the sequestrators of the premises were ordered to pay the same accordingly.[1]

In January, 1656-7,[2] "Upon consideracõn of the humble peticon of diuers of ye Inhabitants of Neiuport Pagnell, in the County of Bucks, Ordered by and the Counsell, That it be recommended to ye Trustees for mayntenance of Minist^rs^ to settle vpon Mr. John Gibbs Minister of Nieuport Pagnell aforesayd an Augmentacõn of 40l. p anñ, for his better mayntenance, and encouragem^t^ and y^t^ ye same be paid accordingly."

The following entry in the Church Register is interesting as referring to John Gibbs as "Minister," viz. :—

"Collected at Newport Pagnell for the fire in Soulbay on 14th of August, 1659, the sum of eight pounds and one penny

Mathias Cowley George Stanckliffe Robert Woodward Richd Yates	Churchwardens.	Joh. Gibbs Minstr. Tho. Kilpin. Wm. Pomfrett.
James Hartley John Carter Ralph Hooton John Knight	Overseers of the poore.	

Pepys visited the church, as already mentioned, on 8th June, 1668, and considered it "a very fair and like a cathedral church," and says that he "saw the leads and a vault that goes far underground."

In the Bishop's MSS. at Lincoln, written between 1705 and 1723, it is recorded that there were then at Newport between 400 and 500 families; that there were about 650 Churchmen and about 80 Dissenting Free Presbyterians. A little sooner, namely in 1676, the Salt MSS. gives the Churchmen as 905, Nonconformists 126, and states there was one Papist.

The Bishop's MSS. moreover state that at the period referred to there were two Conventicles—Presbyterian and Ana-Baptist—and in 1717 a third—Quaker.

1 Bodleian MS. 323 f. 340.

2 State Papers, Dom., Vol. J 77, p. 605 (Council, Days Proceedings, Jan. 1, 1656-7).

The erection of galleries is thus recorded in the Church Registers :—

"In the North side of the church was a Gallery begun to be built in 1709 which was finished in the year 1710. By the order of Mr. Roger Cheval and Mr. William Chubnall Churchwardens.

"In the South side of the Church was a Gallery begun to be built in 1723 And it was finished in the year 1724. Built by the Parish Newport Pagnell."

At one time it is said that a wooden staircase led to the room over the North porch, and the traces of a doorway, now covered with ivy, may be seen on the west side. Perhaps the staircase was taken away on the construction of the galleries.

In 1726 the benefice was said to have been augmented by the gift of £200 from Dr. Lewis Atterbury,[1] and a like sum from the Royal Bounty. Ecton's Liber Valorum, however, of 1723 puts the clear yearly value at £38 14s. 2d., and in the Thesaurus of 1754 the value is placed at the same sum, the amount in the King's Books being £10.

Willis in his MSS. describes the Church as follows :—

"The Church consists of a large spatious Nave and two side Isles which are leaded and chancel which is tiled: at the West end is a Tower which is coped at top and covered with lead in the middle of which is a pole supporting a weather cock, it was designed for a spire and the scaffold holes still remain round the Tower. The Church was built in Henry VIII.'s time, but the Reformation coming on the Steeple was never finished. In it hang five very untuneable modern bells all but the third which is the only good bell in the Steeple. These bells were with additional metal made in 1751 or 1752. The old tenor was about 2000 the present 2200 weight. Here is also a Clock and Chimes.

"The value of the Vicarage is about £15 per annum—£10 paid by the Impropriator, who agreed to pay the same about 300 years before, and £5 scattered pieces of glebe.

"In 1738 an organ (said to have come from Hackney old church)[2] was opened in Newport Pagnell on St. Peter's day, the Church's patron Sainte, and a sermon preached by John Waller Rector of Little Woolston from Psa. 150, vs. 1-4.

1 Vide Atterbury's Charity.

2 The organ was fully described in a letter written by Joseph Redden on 26 Oct. 1866 to Croydon's Weekly Standard, the writer observing that if not interfered with it would last for centuries.

"The same year the fine Monions[1] were taken out of the Chancel windows and iron frames most idly put up by Mr. Pomfret, it was very ill judged and Sir Richard Atkins put to unreasonable expense."

In September, 1784, a pew was given "on the North side of the Ile next but one to the new Vestry lately built."

On the inclosure of Portfield the Commissioners in 1795 awarded the Vicar in lieu of glebe lands and common rights therein the plot of land, containing 3 roods 4 perches and adjoining on its south-east side the road to Stony Stratford, which has been lately sold.

In 1808, too, on the inclosure of Tickford field there was an allotment to the Vicar of 1a. or. 38p. in lieu of his common rights; another allotment of 1a. 1r. 16p. in exchange with Charles Chester for lands of the Vicar in Chicheley parish; and an allotment of a piece of old enclosed ground in Abbey End, with the cottage thereon, containing 2r. 37p., in exchange with P. H. Ward for old enclosed land called the Vicarage Close, and the house and buildings thereon.

The two allotments of 1a. or. 38p. and 1a. 1r. 16p. are on the west side of the London road, nearly opposite the Workhouse, and run down to the Lovat, while on part of the 2r. 37p. the Abbey End School is built. The Vicarage Close, which was exchanged, was doubtless the site of the old Vicarage.

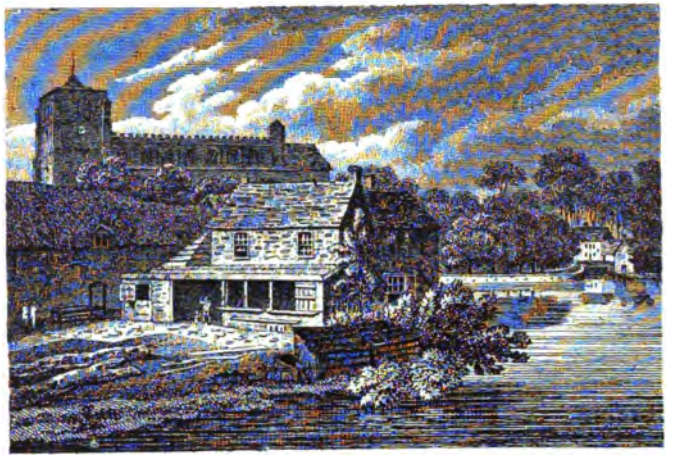
In 1810 the Vicarage was reported to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty as worth £137 9s. 8d. per annum, arising from pensions, glebe and surplice fees, and as discharged from the payment of first fruits and tenths.

About 1827 the whole or part of the south aisle was rebuilt, the pinnacles and embattlements on the tower were added, and the Church generally renovated, the cost being about £7000.

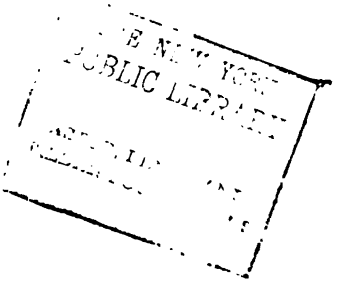
In the "Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography of England," published in 1846, the building is thus described:—

"Newport Pagnel, St. Peter and St. Paul. Is a large church, which has lately been repaired; there is a west tower, nave with aisles, chancel, north and south porch. The tower is perpendicular, as is the chancel; the tower cornice and pinnacles new; the north aisle is perpendicular; the south aisle modern. There are some good Decorated stalls, and a Decorated south porch late in the style, with hanging tracery; the north porch is of an earlier date. There are some good wooden roofs. The north porch has

1 Mullions?



Church of Newport Bucks.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a groined vault, and a chamber above, now used as a vestry; the south porch has a fine Early English arcade. There is also a handsome cinque-foiled arcade in the south aisle, and a piscina in the chancel. The nave is of six large bays, with some Early Decorated windows."

By an Order in Council, dated 6th July, 1859, the patronage of the Vicarage of Newport Pagnell was transferred by the Crown to the Bishop of Oxford in exchange for the patronage of the Vicarage of Sutton with Seaford, in the County of Sussex, and diocese of Chichester.

In 1857 a Bazaar was held with a view of restoring the chancel, and as a result new mullions and stained glass windows were inserted in 1858.

The east window, representing the Crucifixion and SS. Peter and Paul, is of three lights, and the other six windows, representing SS. James the Greater and Andrew, SS. Jude and Barnabas, SS. Thomas and Matthias, SS. John and James the Minor. SS. Matthew and Simon, and SS. Philip and Bartholomew, are of two lights each.

In 1860 the present stone font was presented by two or three friends of the Vicar, and placed in the church in March of that year,

Just a little before this, viz., in February, a gale blew off part of one of the pinnacles of the tower, the broken portions falling through the roof into the nave just in front of the then organ gallery. There was a similar occurrence only a year a two since. On neither occasion was anyone hurt.

By an Order in Council the Churchyard was closed, as from 1st March, 1861, as mentioned elsewhere, part of the new Cemetery being consecrated by Bishop Wilberforce on 6th September, 1861.

In 1866 an offer was made by Mr. George Cooch and his sister to provide a new organ at a cost of £500 provided a proper addition was made at the Eastern end of the church for its reception. This generous offer was accepted, by nine votes to seven, at a Vestry Meeting held on 9th August, 1866, and the organ-chamber (and a new vestry) having been duly built, the organ was given. A brass plate on the organ has the following inscription:—"A.M.D.G. George Cooch and his sister Anne gave this Organ to lead the praises of God in this Parish Church, where during long lives they were devout and pious worshippers. October, 1867."

In 1880 the old pews were replaced by open seats, and in 1887, on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee, new chimes, playing fourteen tunes, were purchased by subscription and placed in the Church tower, and on the same occasion a new bell was presented by Mr. F. J. Taylor.

In 1894 the Chancel was newly roofed, paved, and decorated. The inner roof has been entirely removed (such of the old carving and rafters as were, however, not too badly perished, being retained), and a small window inserted at the top of the Eastern gable in lieu of the opening, for lighting the roof, formerly existing. The arms in the window are those of Saints Peter and Paul.

In the course of the alterations the piscina, which had been plastered over, was again opened out, and at the top of the East side of the Chancel arch a curious opening connected with a flight of steps from those to the nave roof was discovered.

The traces of the rood loft door, which was on the south side of the chancel arch, and opened on to the nave, are apparent from the tower staircase. It is probable that the rood loft extended to the first pillars in the nave.

The black and white marble paving was the gift of the late Mrs. Taylor, and the roof restoration was carried out by her family in remembrance of her. A brass plate on the south side of the chancel records these facts as follows:—

"To the Glory of God the marble floor was placed in this chancel by bequest of Catherine Elizabeth Taylor, A.D. 1894. The roof of the chancel was restored at the same time by her sons and daughters in loving remembrance."

One of the marble slabs is inscribed:—"J. G. Durham, A.M., Vicar of this Parish. Died June 7, 1832. Aged 50." An old stone slab to his memory having been removed in the course of the restoration.

The cost of the wall decoration was paid out of subscriptions raised by the Vicar.

The Bishop of Oxford, Dr. Stubbs, dedicated the renovated Chancel on 1st November, 1894.

In 1895, on the initiative of Mr. F. J. Taylor, a house immediately adjoining on the West the gateway from the High Street to the Church, was purchased by public subscription in order that it might be pulled down and a better view of the Church provided. The scheme was carried through, and instead of part of the

Northern porch only, the whole of the porch, tower, and part of the North aisle can now be seen from the street.

The wooden screen was given anonymously, about 1870, and the oak pulpit on the stone pedestal by Mrs. Massey, of Tickford Abbey, in 1871.

The window at the East end of the South aisle represents the Brazen Serpent in the Wilderness, Christ and the lame man, Christ healing the blind man, and the Good Samaritan, and beneath is a brass plate inscribed as follows:—

"This window was erected to the memory of Robert Collison Surgeon a liberal Benefactor to this Parish who died April 3rd, 1860, Aged 78 years (by his grateful friend George Morley Vicar)."

The next window in the South aisle has the words "Feed my sheep" in a scroll above, and represents the Adoration of the Magi, the delivery of the keys to Peter, and Christ blessing the Children. It also has beneath it a brass plate with the following inscription:—

"This window was erected by George Collison, brother of Robert, who died September 15th, 1862, aged 75 years."

The remaining stained glass window, that in the Tower, was placed there in 1876, and is referred to in the brass plate on the side of the Tower arch, which runs as follows:—

"To the Glory of God and memory of Samuel Wilberforce, for 25 years Bishop of Oxford, the Parishioners of Newport Pagnell have placed in the west window of this Church figures of Patriarchs and Prophets, whose labours he emulated and whose rest he shares."

The very handsome brass lectern bears on its base the following inscription:—

"To the Glory of God. In Memory of Philip and Margaret Butler, of Tickford Abbey. Presented by their Sons. Christmas, 1898."

The Church plate consists of a tall straight silver tankard, with cover, and about 12½ inches high. It has a bull's head engraved on the top and the Atkins' arms on the front, the hall mark being 1634—5. It bears the following inscription:—"The gift of Dame Rebecca Atkins, widdow, Daughter of Sir Edm^{d} Wright, als Buckley." Another flagon and a salver, given by the same lady at the same time, 1705 or so. have lately been made into two cups

and two patens. Besides these there is an old bell-shaped chalice, with a large stem, which bears the 1708—9 hall mark, and two patens, one dated 1638 and the other 1708.

It will have been noticed that in early documents relating to the Church only one Patron Saint, St. Peter, is referred to. Indeed, it is not until about the middle of the fifteenth century that St. Paul's name is added to that of St. Peter.

CHAPTER II.

List of Vicars.

William de Augmodesham, was presented by the Prior and Convent of Newport to the Vicarage of the Church of Newport in 1246. No cause of vacancy stated.

Henry de Buckedon was presented the 8th of the Ides of February, 1263, by the Prior and Convent on the death of William.

Peter de Ulsington, on death of Buckedon, was presented the 18th of the Calends of February, 1265, by the Prior and Convent of Newport. The Bishop's Register records the fact that the Prior and Convent had withdrawn all the revenues forthcoming at the chapel of Little Linford which the Vicars, for the time being, had been accustomed to take for the said vicarage, and there was accordingly a mandate to the Archdeacon to compel restoration from the patrons.

William occurs in 1289. He resigned, having accepted a church with cure of souls in Lincoln diocese.

Robertus dictus Gule presented by the Prior and Convent, Ides February, 1294.

Geoffrey de Wenrich, presented 10th October, 1295, on death of Robert, and resigned in 1303. He was probably the Galf de Wenrich, who, in Nov., 1303, was appointed Vicar of Aston.

William de la Rokele, presented 2nd of the Ides of December, 1303, by the Prior and Convent of Tickford. He died in 1319.

Arnald de Bell Vall, presbr., presented the 7th of the Calends of December, 1319. He exchanged it for the Vicarage of Estwode with

John Cole, psb., in May, 1329. He exchanged it for Kempston Vicarage, Beds, with

John Amys, psb., on the 3rd of the Nones of October, 1332. He resigned 1343. Vide page 102 ante.

William de Stanwigge, parson of All Saints', Bedford, was presented to the Vicarage 22nd April, 1338, by Edward III. (by reason of the temporalities of Tickford being in his hands) on an exchange of benefices with John Amys.

William de Herlaston, parson of Benstede, Diocese Winchester, was presented 8th March, 1340, by the King on an exchange with John Amyce.

Robert de Shiryngton, presented on the 14th of the Calends of November, 1343, by King Edward, the temporalities of the Priory being seized into his hands in the time of the war between him and the French.

William Corbett died in 1378.

Thomas Everard presented by King Richard in right of the seized temporalities of the Priory, 14th of the Calends of November, 1378. He exchanged it for Basgrave Vicarage with

Ralph Hayward presented by the King, October 28th, 1378. He was Master of the Hospital, 1369.

Walter Dobbs presented by the King 9th May, 1385. Not said how vacant.

Robert Maselyn presented by the King 9th November, 1394. Not said how vacant.

W Barker presented 15th Octobef, 1416, by John, Prior of Saint Mary of Tykford and the Convent of same place. Not said how vacant.

Robert Fenton

Thomas Crosse presented by Tickford Priory on Fenton's resignation, to the Church of "St. Peter," 6th May, 1448, and died 1453.

Nicholas Levenoth was presented 20th July, 1453, with obligation of continuous residence and personal

ministration, and died in 1472.

John Chadilworth — was presented 12th November, 1472, by the Prior and Convent of Tickford, and resigned soon after.

John Pelecot — was presented on the resignation of Chadilworth 22nd December, 1472, to the Church of "Sta Peter and Paul," with like obligagation to that of Levenoth, and resigned 1481.

Thomas Vrmeston — presented 16th February, 1481, was Master of the Hospital in 1496, and died 1501.

John Blot — presented 23rd July, 1501, by the Prior and Convent of Tickford, resigned in 1511.

John Blakett — was presented 6th August, 1511. By his will, dated 20th March, 1536, he desired to be buried in the Churchyard here.

William Harwood, A.B., — was presented by Henry VIII., 28th May, 1536, on death of Blakett. He occurs Vicar in 1540 and 1548.

Thomas Walker — was returned 1561 "Curatus de Newport Pagnel."

Thomas Potter — resigned 1575, being Vicar of Wyllne and Master ot the Hospital. He was buried at Newport on 10th February, 1599.

Thomas Yarrow — was presented by Queen Elizabeth 29th March, 1575, in succession to Potter, and was buried 25th February, 1608.

Thomas Webb, A.B., of Exeter College, was presented by the Queen 16th June, 1609. In 1621 he became Rector of Clifton Reynes and resigned this Vicarage. His burial at Clifton Reynes on 20th May, 1655, is recorded in the Parish Registers there, so that a statement by Cole that he was suspended from his rectory for deer stealing, and another that he was buried at his native place, Brayfield, co. North^n, appear to be without foundation.

William Stapp, A.M., was presented 8th October, 1622. He was buried here 16th February, 1630.

Samuel Austin, A.M., was presented by the Crown 31st March, 1631. He occurs as Vicar in 1640, and

seems to have been "thrust out" in 1646.

John Gibbs — sometime of Cambridge University, was presented in 1647. He occurs Vicar 14th August, 1659, but was ejected a few months later.

Robert Marshall — presented by Charles II. 16th January, 1660, the cause of the vacancy not being stated, but resigned in 1663 for better preferment.

Thomas Aspin — was presented 6th October, 1663, by Charles II., and occurs Vicar 6th November, 1678.

John Howard, A.M. — Vicar of Stanton Barry, was presented 6th February, 1678, by the King. He resigned it for Marston Trussell, Northants, where he was inducted 5th April, 1682, and was thence collated to Kidderminster Vicarage, where he died.

John Cooke, A.M. — was presented by James II., 9th April, 1685. He is said to have died in 1688, and to have been buried in the Chancel, but there is no entry in the registers.

Thomas Banks, S.T.P., who had been beneficed in Ireland, was presented by the King and Queen 22nd March, 1688. He was son of Wm. Banks of Winstanley co: Lanc. Esq., matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, 4th July, 1676, aged 16, B.A. 1680, M.A. 22nd March 1682-3. He rebuilt the house belonging to the Hospital, and was buried here on 23rd December, 1716. Being grown old he resigned the Vicarage to his son about six months before his death.

Lowde Banks, A.B. — was presented by the King 12th May, 1716. Died 1757, "a bachelor and rich," and was buried in the Chancel 29th April.

Robert Watson, A.M. was presented by the King 7th May, 1757, through the interest of the Earl of Winchelsea. The inhabitants desired the appointment of a Mr. Middleton, who had a living in Staffordshire, and approached Lord Winchelsea to that end, and took Mr.

Watson's appointment much to heart. Mr. Watson was a member of St. John's College, Cambridge, and came from the curacy of Burleigh to Newport. He died 28th January 1788, aged 70, and was interred by the South Church porch on 1st February, 1788.

William Davies was presented by the King, 18th March, 1788.

William Davies presented by King (by cession of last Vicar) 24th March, 1795, and is said to have died in 1809.[1]

Charles Kipling, L.L.B.,[2] presented by the King 14th February, 1810, resigned in 1822 on being presented to the Rectory of Colston co: Leicester. He was made Perpetual Curate of Stoney Stratford in 1809, and continued to hold that office till his death.

William Marshall, B.D., presented by the King 10th April, 1823. Removed to Totness, Devon, in 1831.

James George Durham, A.M., presented by the King 14th Feb., 1831, on cession of Marshall, died 7th June, 1832, at the age of 50, and was buried in the Chancel.

George Morley presented by the King 28th June, 1832, died 24th, and buried 31st January, 1865. He was a descendant of Dr. George Morley, Bishop of first Worcester and then Winchester.

Hugh Hornby Birley was collated by the Bishop of Oxford on 21st April, 1865, on the death of Rev. G. Morley, and left 1866, having accepted the living of Cranfield.

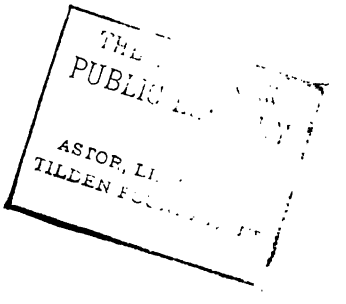
Arthur Linzee Chatterton Heigham was collated by the Bishop on 18th May, 1866, on the cession of the Rev. H. H. Birley. He left 1875.

Charles McMahon Ottley, the present Vicar, was collated by the Bishop on 7th October, 1875, on the resignation of the Rev. A. L. C. Heigham.

1 These Davies entries are quite distinct, as if relating to two persons, as here given, but it is hardly probable that there was more than one William Davies.

2 In 1802 and onwards up to 1809, when he signs as Vicar, the Registers are signed Charles Kipling "Minister."

Most of the particulars as to the earlier Vicars have been taken from the Lincoln Registers; some of the dates as to the later ones from the Liber Institutionum; while the particulars as to the collation of the last three Vicars have been furnished by T. M. Davenport, Esq.


THE
PUBLIC
ASTOR, LI
TILDEN

In Labour
Newport Pagnell
St John's Street
The Iron Bridge
Hamilton's Tomb
Near the North Bridge
The Church
Peoffee Alms Houses
Carlisle School House
Revis' Alms Houses

CHAPTER III.

Chantry Priests.

THE following particulars as to these Priests have been principally obtained from the Lincoln Registers :—

Simon Graston.

John Matheu	presented 10th January, 1387, "to the chapel in the parish church of Newport Pagnell by the Bishop per lapsum, it having been vacant for 30 years by death of Dom. Simon Graston."
John Wenge,	on death of Matheu, presented 2nd May, 1424, by John Barton junior. According to the Lincoln Registers it was found that said J. Barton was patron of the Church of Newport under a deed of Feoffment made to him for the term of his life and that John, late Bishop of Lincoln, presented the church to one John Matheu last Rector (sic) of said church by lapse by neglect of Dom. Thomas Harcourt kt then Patron.
John Fuller	presented 19th April, 1425, by John Barton Jr. Lord of Thornton next Buckingham to the Chantry of the Blessed Virgin Mary founded in Newport Pagnell Church on death of Wenge.
Wm. Burguleñ	presented 27th November, 1467, by the Bishop per lapsum.
Wm. Fletcher	presented 27th January, 1479, by the Bishop per lapsum. Will is dated 13th December, 1496, and is printed elsewhere.

Edward Champ	is described as "priest" in the will of Joan Kyrnell dated 1506 and
Sir Henry Key	"priest" in the will of Edmund Holkot 1520.
Tho: Johnson	was "cantor infra Ecclesia de Newport Pagnell" in 1534, and in the Bishop's Visitation of 1540 is referred to as Tho: Johnson, cant.
Richard Donne	Made priest in 1541 and was living in 1553. Vide page 105 ante.

CHAPTER IV.

CHURCH REGISTERS.

THE Registers commence in 1558. The entries of the earlier years (1558—1608) are all in the same neat handwriting, and are said to have been, and doubtless must have been, copied from older and possibly tattered volumes.

Among the Baptisms are the following entries :—

"Lewes Atterbery son of Lewes Atterbery and Elizabeth his wife borne May 2nd, 1656."

"John, son of Matthew Ansley, baptised 31st August, 1661."

The Marriages include those of :—

George Annesley and Anne Sanders, April 25th, 1626.

Matthew Ansley and Ann Westall, May 8th, 1627.

Marke Slingsbie and Susan Rider, April 15th, 1638.

In 1643 and 1644 there are no marriages recorded, while in 1643, 1644 there are no burials entered. The baptismal registers are, however, continuous at this period.

A little later there is "A Regeister of all persons maried in Newport Pagnell, beginning September, 1653," and goes on :—

"francis Smith and Ann Wallas, both of the parish of Newport Pagnell, in the County of Bucks, have had there Contracte of Mariage published three generall lordes daies, the first time on the nineth day of Ocktober, the second time on the sixteenth day of October, the thirde time on the three and twentieth day of October, and the said francis had the consent of his father, Richard Smith, of Newport aforesaide, and the saide Ann had the consen of her father, Robert Wallas, of Wooburne, in the County of Bedford, and nothing was obiected against them, and the sade francis and Ann was maried by Mr. Thomas White, of Caldecot, Justice of the peace in the same County of Bucks aforesaide, the on and thirtieth day of October, in the year above written."

Another entry a few months later runs :—

"John Knight, of Abthorpe, in the County of Northampton, and Bridget Neale, of Newport Pagnell, in the County of Bucks, had

ther contract of marriage published three market daies in ye market of Newporte, and was maried the twentieth day of february by Mr. William Hartley, Justice of the peace for the County of Bucks aforesaide, in the yeare above written."

Other entries refer to the publication of the contract on "three markett daies in the markett place," and on "three several lords daies in the parish church."

Then simply :—

"Thomas Palmer and Martha Bowwes, both of the parish of Newport Pagnell, was maried by Mr. William Foskett, Justice of the Peace for the County of Bucks, the 14th day of August, 1654."

The marriage of Thomas White, of Caldecot, and Elizabeth Bolton, of St. George's, London, is recorded on 2nd April, 1657, as a Justice of the Peace marriage, and the last entries of this kind occur in that year.

The following certificate as to a Registrar is interesting :—

"The eighth day of October, 1653, Wee who have hereunto subscribed, Justices of the Peace for the County of Bucks, doo certifie that wee have sworne and approved Samuel Williamson, of Newport Pagnell, in the said County, to be parish Register there, according to the late Act of Parliament for marriages, births, and burialls.

Tho : White Hen. Whitbred Wm. Hartley."

The burials include those of :—

John Whyte, of Caldecot, 26th August, 1572.
Margaret Cromwell, 10th January, 1612.
Anthony Carpenter, gent., deceased, 23rd November, 1658.
Mark Slingsbie, 16th July, 1677.
John Revis, apothecary, 11th January, 1702—3.
Samuel Christie, Esq., 24th July, 1703.

From 4th February, 1646, to 17th July, 1653, there are only five entries.

Under date November 6th, 1678, and consequent on the Great Fire of London, occurs the following entry :—

"Collected at Newport Pagnell the sume of three pounds seaven shillings and ninepence to the Briefe for building St. Paul's church in London. Tho. Aspin, Vicar, ibid."

Between 24th May, 1770, and 26th May, 1771, upwards of 80 persons died of smallpox. Mention of entries relating to the Plague and other matters is made elsewhere.

CHAPTER V.

CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNT.

THE following is a copy of the only Churchwardens' Account which can be found, and has been kindly furnished by F. Allfrey, Esq. :—

Bucks, Newport Paynell, April 20th, 1676.

The accounts of William Coles and Stephen Hoddle, Churchwardens for the year abovesaid :—

	£	s.	d.
Paid to the old Churchwardens		3	6
Paid for taking our oaths		2	0
At the first Visitation for our dinners and extraordinaries		13	0
And paid for Mr. Aspin's (Vicar) dinner ...		2	0
Paid for horsehire and returning of Warrants and presentments		4	4
Paid at General Meeting with the Overseers of the yard about towne business ...			8
Paid for killing two hedgehoges			8
Given to a Company of poor people with a pass ...			4
Given to John Hubart, his wife, and 5 children, and Frances Van, widow, with two children, with a pass from Edmond Windham and S[r] William Poltiney		1	0
Paid for beer for the Ringers at the King's Coronation		2	6
Paid at Mr. Dicking at a Meeting with the overseers of the yard about Thos. Ingram's daughter			8
Paid at Widow Goodrids at a Meeting about town business			6
Paid for two bell ropes		6	8

Paid at the Visitation the 17th October ye church fees			2 0
And for our dinner and extraordinaries ...			7 0
And for the Ringers			1 0
For a lock and a for the Churchyard greate gate			8
Paid to David Adams for our presentment and court fees in October last ...			4 0
Given to the ringers at the 5th of November ...			4 6
Paid to William Atterbury for work, mending the seats in the church and the bell wheels			7 0
Paid for a skin of parchment to make ye register...			10
Paid to Robert Sharpe the bell wheels and a seate			10
	Sum is		3 5 9
Received of this charge for burying in the church:			
Mr. Tho. Kilpin, Senior ...	... 6 8		
Thos. Puresell's child ...	... 6 8		
Mr. Waler's child ...	... 6 8		
Jas. Hartley's do. ...	... 6 8		
Jno. Day's do. ...	... 6 8		
Mr. Thos. Kilpin ...	... 6 8		
			1 6 8
	Due to the churchwardens		1 19 1

The account is endorsed as under :—

"We do allow of this account, April 17, 1677.—Tho. White, Mark Slingsbie, Richard Worrall, S. O. Chapman, T. Pomfrette."

CHAPTER VI.

MURAL AND OTHER MONUMENTS.

THREE mural monuments (to the memory of Roger Chapman, John Rogers, and T. and T. G. Forster) have coats of arms, but beyond these and the monuments specially mentioned elsewhere, there are none of any special interest in the Church.

Some altar monuments were once in existence, but they have long since disappeared, while most of the older stones on the floor of the church of which there are records, were covered over when the seating was re-arranged.

In the middle of the Church were formerly three large stones (laid parallel and brought, it is supposed, from Tickford Priory), on which had been brasses. On one of them remained at the time the MS. quoted from was written, the figures of a man and a woman, and on one of the others the figure of a man with a label issuing from his mouth, but all inscriptions had gone.

One of the brasses was later on stolen by the sexton. The other, which is detached from the stone, is still in existence, and is supposed to be that of a civilian of about the year 1440.

In the churchyard, on the slope from the Church towards the Lovat, is a tombstone to the memory of Thomas Abbot Hamilton, who died 7th July, 1788, in the 32nd year of his age, and at the foot of the inscription are the following lines written by the poet Cowper :—

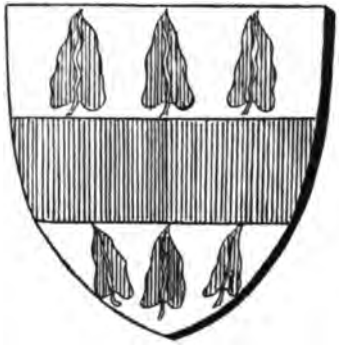
Pause here and think. A monitory rhime
Demands one moment of thy fleeting time,
Consult Life's silent clock, thy bounding vein;
Seems it to say—Health here has long to reign?
Hast thou the vigour of thy youth? an eye
That beams delight? a heart untaught to sigh?
Yet fear. Youth, ofttimes healthful and at ease,
Anticipates a day it never sees;
And many a tomb, like Hamilton's, aloud
Exclaims, "Prepare thee for an early shroud."

In the Bodleian Library[1] there are rough trickings of three coats of arms from Newport Church. The arms have been redrawn, and are reproduced on another page with heraldic descriptions appended. Part of the arms of the first coat have been identified as those of the St. Amont family, while the second coat is that of the arms of the Fillingleys and Fitzlangleys. The third has not been identified.

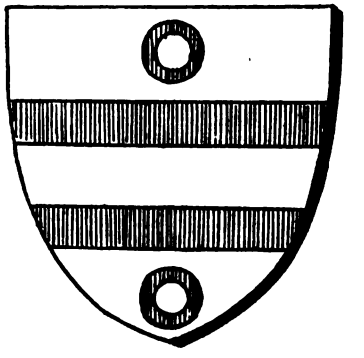
1 MS. Wood, F. 33 Oxon, fo. 129 b.

COATS OF ARMS FORMERLY IN NEWPORT CHURCH.

Per pale ; dexter coupé ; (1) fretty, a chief (St. Amont) ; (2) quarterly, a cinquefoil ( ). Sinister ; fretty, on a chief a lion passant (St. Amand). Nothing to indicate tinctures.



Arg. A fess between six leaves gu : (Fillingley or Fitzlangley).



Arg : two bars between as many annulets gu :

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

CHAPTER VII.

The Bells.

Mr. A. H. Cocks, M.A., in his "Church Bells of Buckinghamshire," gives the inscriptions on the ten Newport bells, as under:—

1. "At proper times my voice Ile raise and sound to my subscribers praise. T: Lester Fecit 1749." (Diameter 30½ inches, height 24 inches.)
2. "Thomas Lester made me, 1749." (Diameter 32¾ inches, height 27 inches.)
3. "Jn. Puratt & Jno. Smith, Ch. Wardens. Lester & Pack, of London Fecit 1769." (Diameter 33⅛ inches, height 27 inches.)
4. "1794. Thos. Lester *(Incised:)* Robert Perrott Philomusicus Auditu Dignus." (Diameter 35⅛ inches, height 28 inches.)
5. "1749. T: Lester of London." (Diameter 38¼ inches, height 30 inches.)
6. "Thomas Lester made me 1749. (Diameter 40¾ inches, height 31 inches.)
7. "The Revd. Charles Kipling Vicar Wm. White Edwd. Cleaver Church Wardens 1816. T. Mears of London Fecit. (Diameter 45⅛ inches, height 33 inches.)
8. "Nuntia sum coeptæ perituræ prævia vitæ. Et modo transactæ vox ego certa tuæ.[1] The Revd. Charles Kipling Vicar. William White Edward Cleaver Church Wardens 1819 T. Mears of London Fecit." (Diameter 50⅛ inches, height 39 inches.)
9. (Sanctus) "A. C., 1671." (Diameter 15¾ inches, height 13 inches.)

1 "I am the harbinger that announces the beginning of thy mortal life, and the sure voice that tells of its end."

10. (Clock Bell) "Cast by Gillett & Co., Croydon.

"The eight old bells that hang around
Invited me to add my sound
The National Anthem help to play
With other tunes both night & day
And thus Victorias Jubilee
Remembered evermore may be.

Presented by F. J. Taylor of Newport Pagnell on the Celebration of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, June 20, 1887. 980." (Diameter 32¼ inches.)

Mr. Cocks gives the inscriptions in facsimile and shows the various ornamental additions, and for these and other information the reader is referred to his work. He concludes by stating :—

"The fifth bell is rung every weekday at 5 a.m. from 1st March to 1st November (temporarily discontinued in the summer of 1887), and at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. every weekday throughout the year.

"Death Knell: as soon as notice is given. One of the smaller bells used for children. Tellers: 3 × 3=a male; 2 × 3=a female.

"On Sundays a Sermon Bell is rung at 7 a.m. For the services (11 a.m., 3 and 6 p.m.) the bells have been rung since about 1870, or shortly before; they were previously chimed. The saunce for the last five minutes.

"Chimed for early Celebrations on weekdays. Ringing at midnight on Christmas and New Year's Eves. Also ringing on Queen's and Prince of Wales' Birthdays. For weddings when arranged. Single bell tolled quickly for Vestry Meetings. The saunce was formerly used as a Fire Bell."

PART IV.

THE NONCONFORMISTS.

CHAPTER I.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

As early as the middle of the seventeenth century there were a large number of members of the Society of Friends in the County of Bucks. The greater portion resided in the southern part of the county, but the Society had numerous adherents in and about Newport Pagnell.

Indeed, Newport was one of the places at which George Fox stayed when about nineteen and undecided as to his future course. Or to quote his own words: "At the command of God, on the ninth day of the seventh month, 1643, I left my relations, and broke off all familiarity or fellowship with old or young. I passed to Lutterworth, where I stayed some time; and from thence I went to Northampton, where also I made some stay; then passed from thence to Newport Pagnell, in Buckinghamshire, whence, after I had stayed a while, I went unto Barnet, in the fourth month, called June, in the year 1644."[1]

In 1674, journeying from London with his wife and his daughter Susan, he states: "We visited Friends, and were visited by them at Newport Pagnel, Northampton, and Cossell."[2]

1 Journal of George Fox, Leeds, 1836, vol. 1., 85.
2 Ibid. vol. 2, 214.

As mentioned elsewhere, there is a tradition that the Barn used by the Independents as their meeting place at Newport Pagnell during the latter portion of the seventeenth century was once used as a Quakers' meeting. There is apparently, however, no means of verifying this tradition, although from the extracts from the "Sufferings," given later, there appears to have been a Meeting in the town about 1664, and one also in 1717.[1] The Newport Meeting, however, seems to have been early abandoned, and the Friends there for many years worshipped at a Meeting in Water Lane, Sherington. The Sherington Meeting house was closed during the eighteenth century, and converted into three cottages, which are still standing, and the burial ground connected therewith is still in existence.

From the time when the Sherington Meeting was closed, as just mentioned, and until about the year 1853 the Newport Friends appear to have attended the Olney Meeting. On the last named Meeting being, however, closed about that year, the Friends in this town held a Meeting in a building at the end of Mr. Hayllar's yard until about 1863, when they purchased an old inn in Silver Street, successively known by the names of "The Hog in Armour," "The Two Fighting Cocks," and "The Plough and Wheat Sheaf," and erected at the rear of the building (where was formerly a skittle alley), the present Meeting House.

The Friends in this district, as in others, did not escape the tribulations formerly incident to their sect, as is shown from the following extracts taken from the manuscript "Memorial of the Sufferings of the People of God called Quakers, in the County of Bucks, and parts adjacent, for their Testimony to the Truth."[2]

1655. Mary Fisher, for speaking to John Gib, priest of Newport Pagnell, in the time of his Exercise, was committed to prison, and brought forth at two several Sessions to tryal and sent to prison again, and there kept til the Assize following and then sent out of the Town with a pass.

1655. John Whitehead, being moved of the Lord to go into the steeple house at North Crawley, after the Priest had done speaking, he did speak to the people in the Grave Yard, when

1 In the Bishops' MSS. at Lincoln, written between 1705—1723, there is under the heading of Newport Pagnell the following item :—"Conventicles 2, Presb. and Anab. (and 3 Quak., 1717)."

2 Vide for most of extracts an article by Richard Littleboy, Esq., on the Upperside Monthly Meeting in "The Friends' Quarterly Examiner," vol. 17, 1883.

they beat and kickt him till they fecht bloud.

1656. William Glidwell, of Newport Pagnell, was sued in the Exchequer for Tithes by Thomas Terrill, Impropriator, and by the warrant he ought to have been brought before the Barons of the Exchequer within two days after he was taken; but he was carried to the county gaol at Alisbury, and there kept prisoner one year and one month, and then brought before the Barons, who sent him to the Fleet prison, where he was kept prisoner for two years wanting but three weeks, so that his imprisonment in all was above three years. And every year during his imprisonment the said Thomas Terrill took away part of his goods, and told William's wife that he would have them al.

1659. About this time, also, and some time before, divers Friends were prosecuted for riding to meetings on the first day of the week, called Sunday. In particular, as Friends were riding to a Meeting at Wandon (Wavendon) they had their horses taken from them and put into the pound and there kept from them, and they were fain to go home on foot. And as Friends were riding to a meeting at Tossiter (Towcester), one called Justice Benson caused their horses to be taken away for riding upon what they called their Sabbath day. Moreover, he caused one of the Friends (being one in the ministry) to be set in the stocks, and kept the other Friends' horses because they refused to pay ten shillings apiece.

1660. Henry Hall, John Burrows, John Thornton, John Cunningham, Robert Keyborn, Henry Cunningham, Edward Swain, Thomas Palmer, Richard Bawn, Robert Daggery, and William Glidwell. These eleven Friends were taken by soldiers out of their peaceable meeting, in which they were assembled to worship God, and were carried before Anthony Chester, William Tirringham, Thomas Duncomb, Brett Norton, and C. Cranmore, who tendered them the Oath of Allegiance, and because, for conscience sake, they would not swear they were al committed to the county gaol at Alisbury, where they remained prisoners fifteen weeks.

1661. Henry Cunningham, of Newport Pagnell, Butcher, was committed to prison for refusing to give bond not to kill meat in Lent.

1662. Mary Chapman, of Sherington, had her Bible taken from her for refusing to pay to the repair of the Steeple House.

1662. Richard Hunt, of Sherington, by warrant from Thomas

Duncomb and Thomas Harkett, called Justices, had taken from him by the Steeple Warden seven pounds of Candles for three days absenting from the Steeple House; and for the three next days' absence they took from him a pair of Andirons. He was also served with a Sessions Process to appear at the Quarter Sessions at Wiccomb on the second day of the third month, 1662, where he appearing was indicted for not coming to the Parish Church of Sherington, and because he had not freedom to traverse the indictment he was conveyed to Alisbury Goal, where he remained prisoner a long time.

1664. Thirty friends being generally met together at Newport Pagnell to worship God upon the fifteenth day of the fifth month, 1664, were taken from their Meeting and brought before William Missingham, Anthony Chester, Thomas Farrer, & Thomas Duncomb & Bret Norton (called Justices), who committed them all to Alisbury Goal, there to ly three months wanting one day for the first offence (as they called it) against the Act for Banishment, and accordingly they were kept in prison so long.

1665. Richard Hunt, Richard Marks, William Glidwell, and Henry Hall were taken out of their peaceable Meeting in Newport Pagnell on the seventh day of the third month, 1665, & committed to Alisbury Goal by William Missingham, Thos. Farrar, Bret Norton, and Henry Andrews for tenn days for the second conviction upon the Act for Banishment.

1670. Richard Hunt, of Sherington, for preaching Truth in a Meeting of Friends in the open Street called Water Lane, at Sherington (being kept out of their Meeting house) on the 6th day of the fourth month, 1670, was fined ten pounds by Bret Norton and Thomas Farrar, of Cold Brafield, for which fine, on the fourteenth day of the same month the said Richard Hunt, being a Wheelwright, had a new cart and as much timber as was, with the cart, worth £12 14s., taken from him by Thomas Clifton and John Philips, Constables, and Thomas Marshal, John Babbington, and John Field, Overseers of the Poor.

1683. Upon the 12th day of the sixt month Friends (being by officers kept out of their publick meeting house in Sherington) did peaceably assemble together to worship God in their burying ground, adjoining to their said Meeting house. And being so assembled, Ann Cunningham, wife of Henry Cunningham, a Friend, of Newport Pagnell, spoke a few words amongst them.

And there being two informers near the meeting, though not so near as to hear what was spoken, nor to know who it was that spake, but as they were told by a girl, these evil men, whose names are Robert Wallis and John Cook, both of Sherington, went and informed one Owen Norton, a Justice of the Peace, living in Sherington, both of the meeting and the friends speaking; whereupon the said Justice Norton fined Henry Cunningham £5 for his being at ye meeting, and £8 for his wife's speaking there, and sent his warrant to the officers of Newport to levy the said fines by distress. Upon the receipt of the warrant John Mash, Thomas Burgis, Thomas Mobbs, three of the town Constables (the fourth utterly refusing to join with them whatsoever he should suffer), with John Carpenter, Thomas Bowry, and Thomas Jenkinson, Overseers of the poor (the fourth of them refusing also to act in this work), and Thomas Main and Richard Potter, Churchwardens (so called), which Potter was one of the worst of the company, and died soon after; these came to Henry Cunningham's house and violently broke open the shop door, and having sackt and carried away several sorts of shop goods, they also took and carried out of the house a feather bed, with all the bedding belonging thereunto, also brass and pewter, and out of the yard they took two hogs. Al which together were valued to be worth about £28. The goods were carried to the Steeple House, and kept there awhile, but the hogs were sold to a sorry fellow, one John Johnson, a bumbailiff, for thirty shillings, though judged by one of the men that took them to be worth fifty shillings. The rest of the goods lay long unsold, the officers being very unwilling to sell them, till at length, being much threatened by the said Justice Norton, they sold some of the goods and paid the fines and sent the rest of the goods back again, though not without spoil and loss.

CHAPTER II.

THE INDEPENDENTS.

AT the time of the Civil War, when Sir Samuel Luke was the Parliamentary Governor of Newport Pagnell, "there were," says the Thompson MS., "several people in ye Town call'd Puritans; these were greatly favoured by the Souldiers, and Religion, by that means, got footing here. But it was not till the Restoration that an Independent Congregation was formed, by Mr. John Gibbs, who was Vicar of ye Parish, but was ejected [about the end of 1659] for refusing ye Lord's Supper to ye whole Parish. He was a pious and learned Man, tho it is said He was not bred at ye University, but put in by Cromwell's party."

Amongst those to whom Mr. Gibbs refused to administer the Sacrament was a notorious drunkard, who, being a man of considerable property and influence, was it is said the principal occasion of Mr. Gibbs' ejectment. However that may have been, Mr. Gibbs lived, after his ejectment, in one of two houses (subsequently converted into one) which stood on the site of the present Manse,[1] and preached in a large barn[2] at the rear, which tradition says had been formerly occupied as a Quakers' Meeting. But it was not till the Revolution, says Thompson, that he confined his stated service to Newport, at which time his congregation was large and his success visible.

In the times of persecution which followed Mr. Gibbs' ejectment, the barn was found to be in a very convenient situation for

1 In the Court Rolls of Newport Pagnell Manor it is recorded that on 8th of October, 1672, the Homage presented "that Thomas Kilpin Gen. who held of the Lord of this Mannor one messuage by the rent of 1s. 6d. and a Tenement in the occupation of Mr. John Gibbs by the rent of 4d. hath aliened the same to his son Robert Kilpin." The house occupied by Mr. Gibbs was evidently therefore quite a small one if the quit rent may be taken as a guide.

2 In May, 1672, John Bunyan, when applying for his own license to preach, applied also, amongst many others, for a license for John Gibbs to preach in "William Smyth's barn and his own house in Newport Pagnell."

the purpose to which it was devoted, as, being at the end of a long yard running back from the street, persons who were on the watch could easily ascertain the entrance of informers and give notice to the congregation, who had an opportunity of making their escape through a garden door, which opened into Pagg's Court.

Amongst those persecuted was a Mr. Waller,[1] a medical man, who, for ten months, to avoid being committed to prison for the crime of hearing Mr. Gibbs preach, concealed himself in the out offices belonging to the house now occupied as the Vicarage. It is said that during this time, when there was public worship at Mr. Gibbs' Meeting, Mr. Waller used to leave his retreat, and crossing a fence by means of a ladder, reach, unobserved, the back door of the Meeting.

Mr. Gibbs himself, too, seems to have suffered, for in an elegy on his death, it is stated that :—

"Since Gibbs is gone into Eternity!
Master John Gibbs, whose virtues did excell
Many who on the Universe do dwell;
O where shall we one like unto him find,
Among all those whom he hath left behind.

* * * *

His Countenance with Majesty did shine;
His lips did flow with Fruits of Life divine.
In Learning Great, he had proficiency,
His judgment deep i' th' Gospel Mystery;
Surpassing many in his precious skill,
To preach the Word, the hungry soul to fill.

* * * *

In persecution, he hath often stood,
To seal the truths of Jesus with his blood;
In dangers great, and perils night and day,
Was he engaged, amongst the beasts of prey;
By wicked ones, he often was misused,
His hair pulled off, his person much abused;
The bloody sword against him they did draw,
Thereby intending his life to destroy;
But great Jehovah, with his mighty hand,

1 Amongst the Manorial Records is a list dated 8th October, 1672, of "The names of the Inhabitants of the high Town of Newport Pagnell," and in such list occurs the name of John Waller Gen.

Their violence and malice did withstand;
And did defend him from his throne on high,
And kept him as the apple of His eye;
To prison and confinement he did go,
With cheerful heart, and countenance also;
With courage great, he valiantly did stand,
To witness for his Lord with heart and hand."

There is one singular circumstance connected with these sufferings which must not be passed by. In 1769 the Rev. William Bull became the owner of the premises once in the occupation of Mr. Gibbs, and about fifty years later, when some repairs were being made, a small room or closet, about four feet square, was discovered. It was between two walls at the side of a large old chimney, and had evidently been a hiding place, for the only entrance to it was from a trap door beneath, which was concealed from view in the old-fashioned chimney place.[1] In the room were found some coat buttons, two tobacco pipes, the bowls of which were very small, and some silver coins. It is not improbable that Mr. Gibbs was surprised in this hiding place. That he used it there is little doubt.

In the records of the "Church of Christ assembled at West End Meeting, Wellingborough," are the following interesting items bearing on the existence of a Church at Newport in the year 1692:—[2]

"The 21st day of the first month 1692 we held a Church Meeting at Wellingbro' . . . We then ordered that our Brethren should two together go to visit the Brethren in every place and bring us an account of their faith and love. . .

"Our messengers were at Newport and might not have admitted any to the Church Meeting but they resolved not to hold communion with us upon which several of their members declared against them for their disorder and so left them. . .

"The 3rd day of the 2nd month we declared not to hold communion with Newport Church because they refused to reform their disorders which are amongst them."

Even on 2nd December 1733 the Wellingborough Church state,

1 Memorials of Rev. Wm. Bull, by Rev. Josiah Bull, M.A., 1865, 2nd Ed.

2 As early as 1660 it appears from the Bedford Church Records that the Rev. Mr. Wheeler, a Member of the Newport Church, was invited to succeed Mr. Gifford, the first pastor of the Independent Church at Bedford, but the invitation was not accepted.

"We had a letter from Newport Church for us to hold communion with them, tho' they altered their covenant. We agreed to send them word we could not do it."

The Wellingborough Church referred to was one of the Independent order, and it is therefore not likely that the Newport Church they refer to was other than the one of which Mr. Gibbs was pastor. Whether the members who "declared against" the others subsequently left and formed the Baptist Church cannot now be stated, but it is not impossible that they did so. Mr. Gibbs seems to have held somewhat peculiar views, and would probably not concur in the views which may have been expressed by the Wellingborough messengers, who were doubtless strict and orthodox Independents.

Mr. Gibbs' will is dated 19th April, 1698, and in it he refers to his "loving wife Martha having many children and grandchildren." He died in the following year, it is said on 16th June, and his will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 5th December, 1699, so that the entry in the Parish Registers of the burial of a John Gibbs on 16th August, 1704, probably, therefore, refers to a son of his. Martha Gibbs, Mr. Gibbs' wife, died on 2nd and was buried on 4th January, 1704. She was in the 73rd year of her age.

Mr. Gibbs preached a funeral sermon for a Mr. Maxwell, who died while a student at Harvard College, Cambridge, New England, which he published. There is also in the British Museum a volume, presumably his work, entitled "Several Divine Treatises . . . to which is added a Discourse of the Four Last Things . . . by the late Reverend Divine Mr. John Gibbs. The Third Edition. London . . . 1704."

It was towards the close of the 17th century that the old barn meeting place was forsaken and the first real meeting house erected. This building which joined the barn measured on the outside 40 feet square, and had one gallery in the front four seats deep. In the wall behind the pulpit an opening was left so that if necessary the minister could make his escape.

On 24th October, 1702, there was a lease of the premises made between Robert Britten the Elder of Newport Pagnell Gentleman of the one part and William Maxwell, Thomas Rider, Thomas Smith, John Blacklock and Robert Britten the younger all described as of Newport Pagnell Gentlemen, of the other part

whereby "All that new built or new erected house Chappell or Meeting Place scituate standing and being at the Neather End of the yard of the said Robert Britten the Elder in Newport Pagnell aforesaid the yard of the said Robert Britten the Elder leading from the Streete on the North part thereof the garden or premises in the occupation of Anne Britten Widdow on the South part thereof and the old Meeting house or Barne on the West part thereof" Together with a right of way over the said yard for the lessees and persons commonly called Protestant Dissenters for the using the said house Chappell or Meeting place for the Worshipp and Service of God or otherwise as they thought well was granted for nine years, as from the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel then last past, at an annual rent of £2, and on the expiration of that time for a further term of 20 years at an annual rent of £5.

Mr. Gibbs was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Tingey, who was educated for the ministry under Rev. Thomas Goodwin, of Pinner. He left Newport in 1709, on his acceptance of a call to the pastorate of the Church at Northampton, originally known as Castle Hill Meeting,[1] and of which in later years Dr. Doddridge was the pastor. In 1729 Mr. Tingey removed to Fetter Lane Chapel, London, where he "preserved a good auditory and had a prospect of being useful," but he died on 1st November, 1729, his funeral sermon (afterwards printed) being preached by Dr. Ridgley.

Rev. John Hunt (from 1698—1709 pastor of the Castle Hill Meeting, Northampton) received a call to the pastorate on 10th October, 1709, and became Mr. Tingey's successor at Newport, as Mr. Tingey became his at Northampton.

At this time a Church Covenant was drawn, and is the first article in the old church book. It has never been altered, and is as follows:—"We whose names are under-written, having given up ourselves to the Lord, do solemnly promise in the presence of God to walk together in communion in all the ordinances of God according to the light we have received shewing all dutiful respect to our pastor and brotherly love towards each other; and to submit ourselves to all such censures of the Church as shall be agreeable to the word of God and all these we will continue to do as God shall enable us."

1 He was ordained pastor there on 22nd February, 1708-9.

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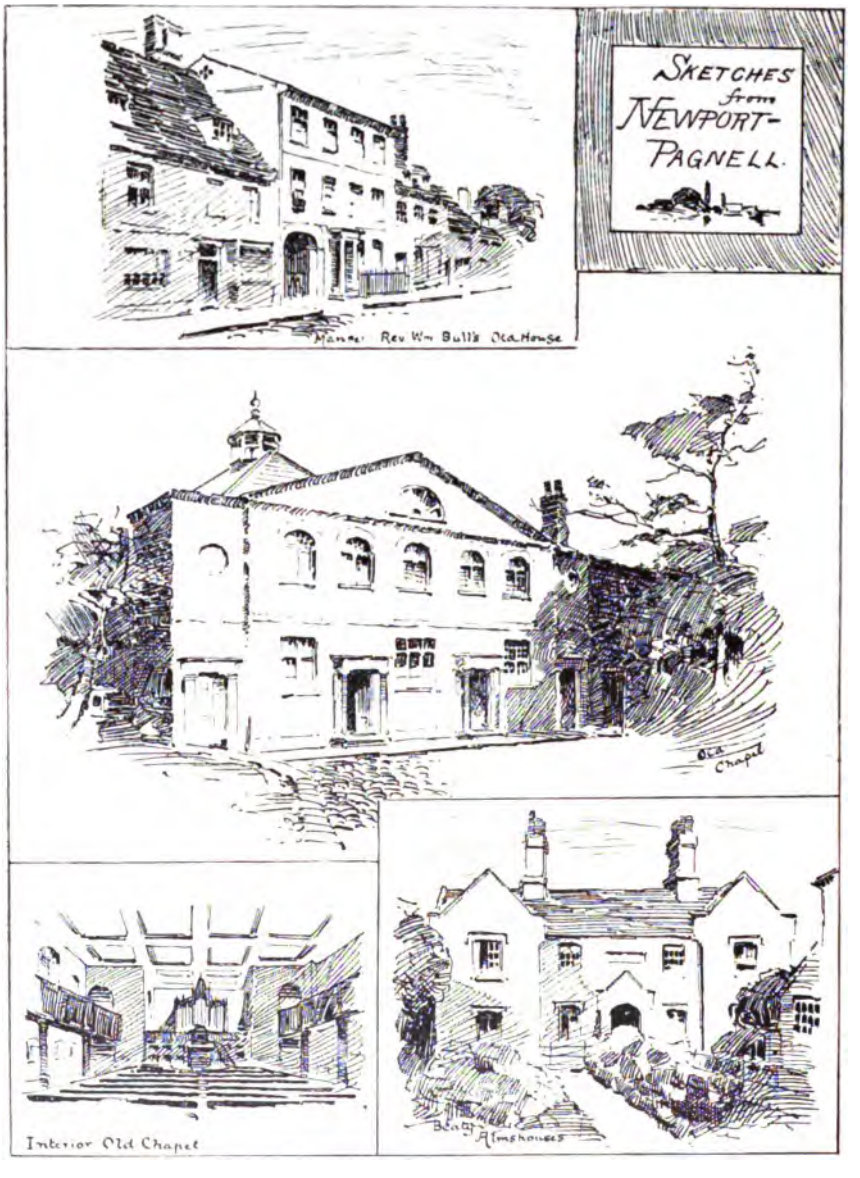
Sketches from Newport-Pagnell.
Manor Rev Wm Bull's Old House
Old Chapel
Interior Old Chapel
Beaty Almshouses

In 1710 Rev. Richard Freeman, a member of the Newport Church, was ordained pastor of a Church at Gamlingay, which was originally a branch of the church at Bedford, but was then formed into a separate church.

On 14th July, 1714, an association of ministers was held at Mr. Hunt's Meeting, when Rev. Dr. Cumming, at that time of Cambridge, preached a sermon (which was published) on the corruption and defection of the times as to matters of religion, the period being one of alarm to Dissenters in consequence of the passing of the Schism Bill, by which they were restrained from educating their own children, and other attacks which they anticipated would be made on their rights.

In the year 1725 Mr. Hunt left Newport for Tunstead, Norfolk, where he died about 1730. He was the author of several books, "and was of a remarkable warm and lively temper and his preaching very successful. In his time ye congregation was not less than 70 or 80 in number."

Mr. Hunt was succeeded by his son, Rev. William Hunt, who had been settled some time at Mattishall, Norfolk. He was ordained on 15th September, 1725. Mr. Jabez Earle delivered the introductory discourse from Matt. xxiii. 9, Dr. Calamy the charge, and Rev. John Troughton, of Bicester, preached to the people.

Two side galleries were erected in 1725, and it is said that, during Mr. Hunt's ministry, the congregation so grew that the Meeting House was not large enough to contain it. In August, 1738, however, Mr. Hunt left Newport to take the pastoral charge of a church at Hackney, of which the Rev. Matthew Henry had formerly been minister. Mr. Hunt resided at Hackney till he died on 20th May, 1770, in the 73rd year of his age. He became acquainted with Dr. Doddridge early in life, for Mr. Doddridge while a student, being caught in bad weather at Newport, called on him at his father's house. Young Mr. Hunt offering to lend a great coat, his mother called him aside and reproved him for putting such confidence in a stranger, but he replied "I am sure he is a gentleman and a scholar." Mr. Doddridge overheard the remark, and never forgot it, the two being great friends in after life.

From Doddridge's correspondence and diary (Vol. 3, p. 346) it would appear that Rev. David Fordyce, M.A., preached at Newport for a few months, soon after Mr. Hunt left, for writing on

7th October, 1738, the Doctor says, "The people at Newport were so charmed with a gentleman who preached there the other day, that I believe they will join in a unanimous and pressing invitation. His name is Fordyce, a Scotchman, educated at Aberdeen, and a very learned and worthy person." In a later letter (p. 351) dated 27th February, 1739, he says, "I send you this by the hands of Mr. Fordyce who has spent some time at Newport." Mr. Fordyce, who was a man of great promise, was drowned off the coast of Holland in 1751.

About 1740 a serious crisis in the history of the church occurred, for the land on which the chapel stood, never having been bought by the members, was in danger of being sold over their heads and the interest ruined as a consequence.

At this juncture, Dr. Doddridge, however, most generously came forward and, on 5th September, 1740, purchased the premises from one John Crichton, of Newport Pagnell, Lace Merchant, for £106. Crichton himself had in January, 1732-3, purchased the same from the Commissioners in Bankruptcy of one Robert Lattimer, of Bishopsgate Street, London, tobacconist, a son of Robert Lattimer, of Newport Pagnell, Bone lace maker, who, in his turn, had on 16th March, 1709, purchased the premises from Robert Britten, Senior. The premises were on 11th September, 1740, conveyed by Dr. Doddridge under the description of "All that Meeting house and the soil and ground whereon the same now stands, with the appurtenances, situate, standing, and being in Newport Pagnell aforesaid, in a certain yard there in the tenure and occupation of John Crichton, now used and frequented by the congregation of Protestant Dissenters for the publick worship and Service of Almighty God of which the Reverend Mr. William Hunt was sometime since Minister" to certain persons upon trusts, therein mentioned, for the benefit of the congregation of Protestant Dissenters then or thereafter there to assemble, and in such deed Thomas Webb, of Newport Pagnell, Clerk, is mentioned as the then Minister of the congregation.

There is no further mention of Mr. Webb, however, and whether he was a stated minister cannot be said. Through lack of a settled pastor, however, the congregation was manifestly on the decline when, on 20th October, 1743, Rev. Humphry Gainsborough, a native of Sudbury and brother of the celebrated painter, was called to the pastoral office. He left Newport in 1747 and settled at

Henley-on-Thames, where he died suddenly on 23rd August, 1776, whilst conversing with some gentlemen about the locks on the Thames which had been constructed under his direction. He was very fond of mechanical contrivances, and the author of several inventions. He was buried in his Meeting House at Henley.

Mr. Affleck, a Scotchman, who was eventually preacher at the Great Church at Middleburgh in Zealand, Holland, and Rev. David Fordyce are said to have supplied the pulpit from 1747 to 1749, but it is unlikely that Mr. Fordyce again came to Newport, and it may fairly be assumed that Mr. Affleck was the only man who came in a pastoral capacity during the years in question. Moreover, in the Thompson MS. Mr. Affleck is said to have succeeded Mr. Gainsborough, and no mention at all is made of Mr. Fordyce.

In 1749 the Rev. James Belsham,[1] of Bedford, "a man of uncommon learning and great genius," undertook the pastoral charge, but as he nevertheless continued to reside at Bedford, his absence and want of popularity so prejudicially affected the Church that when he resigned in 1763 there were only 14 Church members.

The Rev. William Bull, then a student at the academy at Daventry under Dr. Ashworth, and who preached for the first time at Newport in 1761 as a supply for Mr. Belsham, supplied the pulpit after Mr. Belsham's resignation. In June, 1764, Mr. Bull came to reside at Newport, and on the 11th of October following was ordained pastor of the church.

On 23rd October, 1800, Rev. Thomas Palmer Bull was ordained co-pastor with his father.

At the end of the year 1805 the Meeting was re-built and re-opened on 12th January, 1806, and, the congregation increasing, the building was in the summer of 1808 made one-third larger.

Rev. William Bull died on 23rd July, 1814, having preached to his congregation for the last time on Sunday morning, 10th July, 1814, from Psalm xxvii., 9.

In 1850, when the Rev. T. P. Bull had been pastor 50 years, a Jubilee service was held. "By all who knew him he was alike beloved and respected for his varied knowledge, genial temper, public spirit, unostentatious piety, and his great and varied use-

1 He married Ann daughter of Thomas Woodward, whose wife was a daughter of Sir Francis Wingate, of Harlington.. One of his sons, Thomas, born 15th April, 1750, became principal of Daventry Academy.

fulness. He retained to a late age, to a great degree, his bodily and mental vigour, but at length in March, 1859, at the advanced age of 86, he quietly sunk to rest."

During Mr. Bull's ministry further enlargements were made in the chapel. In 1819 the front was carried out eight feet; and in 1827 the vestry was enlarged and a schoolroom erected over it. And again in 1846 the recess at the back of the pulpit was made.

In 1833 the Rev. Josiah Bull, M.A., was united with his father, the Rev. T. P. Bull, in the pastoral office, and on the death of the latter became sole pastor.

The 11th October, 1864, was the centenary of the ordination of the Rev. Wm. Bull, and special commemoration services were held on that occasion. Two sermons were preached to crowded congregations on Sunday, 9th October—in the morning by the Rev. Thomas Adkins, of Southampton, and in the evening by the Rev. Philip Kent, of London. On the 11th October a most pertinent and eloquent sermon was preached by Dr. Stoughton. In the evening a public meeting was held in the chapel. Rev. Josiah Bull took the chair, and during the service a very elegant silver epergne was presented to him in the name of the members of the Congregational Church by the senior deacon, Mr. Chapman.

On 31st March, 1868, in consequence of ill-health, the Rev. Josiah Bull resigned his charge, having for 34 years sustained the office previously held by his grandfather for 50 and by his father for 60 years, as already mentioned.

On 9th July, 1868, Rev. Clarence Lankester, B.A., was ordained pastor. He continued to minister here till 12th February, 1878, when he left to take charge of the Congregational Church at Preston, near Brighton, on which occasion he was presented by his church and people with a valuable testimonial, consisting of a drawing-room clock, a purse of gold, and an illuminated address.

In January, 1879, Rev. James Alfred Balshaw, of Whitchurch, Salop, formerly a student at Lancashire College, was recognised as pastor of the church.

During his ministry the necessity for a new place of worship became apparent, and on 26th October, 1880, the Memorial stone of the present chapel was laid by Albert Spicer, Esq.

The last sermons were preached in the old chapel on 6th June, 1880, by Mr. Balshaw, and the new building, which is built in front of the old chapel site, was formally opened on 17th May, 1881, a

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INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

sermon being preached in the afternoon by the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, B.A., of Brixton Hill, from the text "Thy word is truth," the services in the interim having been held in the Public Room.

The old chapel, with the exception of the old organ loft, which is now used as an Infants' Sunday School, was taken down, but the Vestry and Schoolrooms were left and additional Class-rooms built. The whole, too, of the interesting collection of mural monuments in the old building were carefully removed and placed in the new chapel.

The new building accommodates in all about 400, and the total cost in connection with its erection, the purchase of the Manse, &c., was about £4000, the whole of which has some years since been paid off. The pulpit reading desk has a piece of wood, inlaid, with an inscription thereon on brass, as follows:—"This board once formed a part of the pulpit of the celebrated John Bunyan, and was presented to the Trustees of the Independent Meeting at Newport Pagnel by the Revd. William Bull:—

"Revere the man, whose pilgrim marks the road,
And guides the progress of the soul to God.—*Cowper.*"

The rose window in the gable end, facing the street, was the gift of Dr. Rogers, of Exeter, and bears a record to that effect, viz.:—"Dr. Nathaniel Rogers, of Exeter, gave this window, 1880."

In June, 1885, Mr. Balshaw resigned the pastorate on his going to Australia for the benefit of his health, and his successor, the Rev. Samuel Clarke Gordon, M.A., B.D., who then resided at Sidcup, was ordained on 25th May, 1886.

Mr. Gordon resigned the pastorate in 1897, leaving the town in the July of that year.

He was succeeded by the Rev. Selwyn John Evans in the spring of 1898, the recognition services being held on the 19th May. Mr. Evans was a Cheshunt student, commenced his ministry in 1892, and when invited to Newport was pastor of the Daventry Independent Chapel.

CHAPTER III.

NEWPORT PAGNELL THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE.[1]

IN 1782 a movement was set on foot, in which Rev. John Newton and Cowper the poet both took much active interest, for establishing a new academy for preparing young men for the ministry, and eventually the new institution was formed at Newport, and Rev. William Bull appointed tutor.

For several years the academy was supported by voluntary contributions, and one of the subscribers, the well-known John Thornton, so approved its plan that in January 1786 he generously offered to undertake the entire charge of its subsequent maintenance, and by his will bequeathed to Mr. Bull a sufficient sum for its support so long as he had charge of it.

In 1786 the Rev. Samuel Greatheed, who had been a military engineer, but subsequently entered the Academy, became Mr. Bull's assistant in the work of tuition.

In 1789 however, Mr. Greatheed, having in the meantime married Ann Hamilton, sister of the T. A. Hamilton whose epitaph Cowper wrote, undertook the charge of the Independent Congregation at Woburn.

Thereupon Rev. T. P. Bull became assistant tutor, and was united with his father in the superintendence of the Academy till the death of Rev. W. Bull in July, 1814, and from that time till 1831 he had sole charge of it.

As the benefits derived from the provisions under Mr. Thornton's will were to cease on the death of Rev. William Bull, the supporters of the Institution held a meeting in London in March, 1812, when steps were taken to perpetuate it, and it was subsequently supported by obtaining subscriptions from the religious public.

1 Vide Appendix to "A Discourse on the Studies of Newport Pagnell College," by Rev. John Watson. London, 1843.

In 1831 Rev. Josiah Bull, A.M., became associated with his father in the work of tuition, and the Institution was conducted by them till 1842, when they retired and were succeeded by the Rev. John Watson, who had been (1835-37) co-pastor at Union Chapel, Islington.

At this time more than eighty young men had passed through the College, and there were then more than fifty of its students who were preaching either in this country or, as missionaries, in other lands. The usual number of students was eight, the term of study four years, and the annual expenditure of the Institution about £500.

Mr. Watson[1] subsequently became Theological Professor at Hackney College, and on 26th January, 1848, a special meeting was held at the Independent Chapel for the purpose of recognising the Rev. William Froggatt (late of Morpeth) as tutor of the Institution, the address then delivered by Mr. Froggatt being printed.

In June, 1850, however, after an all night's deliberation, it was decided to amalgamate the Institution with Cheshunt College, the principal reasons being want of funds, the death of many subscribers, and a desire to unite the smaller with the larger College. As a result of the decision the students, a valuable library, and the invested funds were transferred to Cheshunt College.

The College House was for many years used as a school by Mons. F. E. Dargué and others, but ultimately was acquired by the Independent Chapel trustees for a manse.

1 His death took place in January, 1859, and resulted from an omnibus accident.

CHAPTER IV.

THE BAPTISTS.

IN Thompson's MS., at Dr. Williams' Library, it is stated that, "In Mr. Gibbs' time there was a number of Baptists in this Town, and there is reason to think that this Interest is of much longer standing than the Independent, but their Records being all lost there is no ascertaining particular facts. A venerable old man now living (1774), one of Mr. Bull's Hearers who constantly attended Mr. Gibbs' preaching, said Mr. Gibbs loved these people, and wished to have them brought into a regular Church State, and took great pains for this purpose, but could not succeed. There was a Mr. Bennett among them whom Mr. Gibbs wanted to settle among them as their pastor. He was said Mr. B.'s old friend, a good preacher and of exemplary behaviour; but the people could not agree among themselves about him: perhaps their sufferings had sowered their tempers like many others of the excellent of the earth."

In the years 1704 and 1709, however, there are the following interesting notes in the Northampton College Street Records:—

"March ye 26th, 1707. At our Church meeting, at ye Request of ye people at Newport Pagnel (who formerly belonged to Mr. Gibbs), by a letter sent to this Church, a letter of advice was ordered to be drawn up, signifying to them that it is this Churche's judgement that ye late visible Church at Newport is now dissolved, and that they ought to begin their Church state anew.

"April ye 6th, 1707. The letter of advice before ordered to be drawn up to be sent to ye people at Newport Pagnel was now read, approved, and signed by ye Church.

"June ye 12th, 1709. This Church received a letter from ye Church at Newport Pagnel, whereby they signify their having appointed ye 22nd of this month for ye installing Mr. Robert

Hanwell into ye pastoral office, and desire our Church to send Bro. Moore to assist them (in conjunction with messengers from other Churches) by advice and council on that solemn occasion. Hereupon Bro. Moore and Bro. Abbott were appointed to go thither as messengers.

"July 20, 1709. Bro. Moore and Bro. Abbott acquainted ye Church that they (as ordered) had been at Newport Pagnel to behold that Churche's order in ye Enstallment of Mr. Hanwell into ye pastoral office, and that ye said Church (by an aged brother) publickly and solemnly renewed their call (whereof he accepted), and so ordained him, after ye way and manner used by ye purest Congregational Churches, &c. Wherewith our Church signified their satisfaction."

From these notes it would appear that there was a Church formed prior to 1707, which was connected with or in some way owed its origin to Mr. Gibbs, although he was not the stated pastor; that the Church was reformed in 1707; and that Mr. Robert Hanwell (or Hennell) became its pastor.

The Thompson MS. refers to Mr. Hennell and says he preached many years and was much esteemed, but never had the pastoral charge. The latter statement must, however, be incorrect.

The first place of meeting is unknown, but in January, 1716, Robert Hanwell described as yeoman, John Palmer salesman, John Robinson lacebuyer, Bartholomew Course yeoman, all of Newport Pagnell, Samuel Porter of Midleton Keyns, yeoman, and Matthew Adams of Sherington, yeoman, purchased for £24 10s. "All that messuage cottage or tenement with the appurtenances in Newport Pagnell aforesaid near adjoining to the malting belonging to the dwellinghouse[1] late of Samuel Christie Esq. deceased on the East and being part of a certain Estate there called Bearditch Coppy and containing two bays of building now or late in the occupation of Thomas Browne" to be held in trust "for a Meeting house for the use of the several persons in and about Newport Pagnell aforesaid commonly called or distinguished by the name of the Baptist Congregation to pray read and hear Divine Service in according to the way and manner of the said Sect called Baptists."

The premises seem to have been at once converted into a Meeting, for in the College Street records there is a note, in July

1 Now the Vicarage.

1717, that there was "Collected from house to house, &c., for ye Church at Newport, towards their new Meeting Place, £6 1s. 8d."

Mr. Hennell remained at Newport sometime, but apparently he went to London for a while, as in the Kettering Baptist Church Records it is stated, under date January 1729-30, that Mr. Hanwell's dismission from Mr. Nobel's Church in London was received, and that he was admitted a member in full communion. It is further recorded that on 26th January, 1729-30, he was called to the pastoral office of the same Church, and that he accepted the same, desiring, however, to go to London three or four days every year. On 10th March he was publicly chosen as pastor, and continued at Kettering till his death in September, 1749.

David Evans was pastor in July, 1748, and a Mr. Palmer, who in 1774 lived at Bilston or Biddeston, Suffolk, ministered to the Church for some time

Mr. William Coles, who was the stated minister in June, 1761, remained for about ten years, and in 1792 was living at Ampthill, Bedfordshire. His only daughter, Ann, was the second wife of the well-known Rev. Andrew Fuller, the date of her marriage being 30th December, 1794. In Morris' Memorials of Fuller she is described as the "only daughter of the Rev. William Coles, pastor of the Baptist Church at Maulden in Bedfordshire."

He was succeeded by Mr. Hewson, who was Pastor in 1774.

In 1814 George Foskett, who was described as of Leighton Buszard, was the Minister.

William John Early, who died in May, 1833, aged 33, and to whose memory there is a tablet in the Chapel, was another Pastor, and the name of Robert Abbott occurs in 1840.

The death is recorded on the 8th March, 1863, at Newport Pagnell, of "Sarah, wife of Mr. W. Pimm, Baptist minister aged 77."

Mr. Joseph Wilkins officiated for a time and left in 1892.

The Church Records, unfortunately, appear to have been lost or mislaid, so that the information obtainable is somewhat fragmentary, and is gleaned from the Thompson MS., the Trust Deeds, and the College Street Records.

There seem, however, to have been a goodly number of pastorates, and the list above given is doubtless incomplete, although Thompson in 1774 goes so far as to say "that as the people would never agree to have a settled pastor, the interest has always been

feeble and low." He adds:—"Some of them once joined the Church at Rode, Northamptonshire, and Mr. Deacon after that used sometimes to come to Newport to administer ye Lord's Supper, for which reason they have been improperly call'd a Branch of Rode Church, though they were a people long before there were any at Rode."

The Schoolroom in front of the Chapel was built on what was the foreyard, at a cost of about £200 by S. Harris, Esq., of Tickford House (of blacking fame), and given to the Trustees. It was opened on Thursday, 11th July, 1861, and for a time used for a day as well as a Sunday School.

CHAPTER V.

The Wesleyan Methodists.

The Wesleyan Chapel, which is somewhat set back from the High Street, was erected in 1815.

In 1859 various necessary repairs and alterations were made, and at the re-opening services, held on 24th July, 1859, John Howard, Esq., Mayor of Bedford, preached in the morning, and Dr. Melson, of Birmingham, in the evening.

Two sermons were preached on 5th October, 1865, by Rev. John S. Workman, of London, in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the Chapel.

The Primitive Methodists

Had a Chapel in Marsh End, but its use was discontinued and the building sold, being for some time used as a National School, as mentioned elsewhere.

The Plymouth Brethren

Have for many years now worshipped in the building near the Town Hall, High Street, the lower part of which was formerly the Police Station.

PART V.

THE CIVIL WAR.[1]

NEWPORT PAGNELL, although often mentioned in the records of the Great Civil War as a place of strategic importance, was not the scene of any particular battle, or even skirmish.

The notes of what did actually take place there, and the accounts of the expeditions which were sent thence, are, however, by no means uninteresting—the quaintness of the language used, oftentimes, making up for the baldness of the narrative.

It was towards the close of the summer of 1643 that bodies of Royalists were located in the neighbourhood, and a writer, under date 24th October, 1643, says, "Since the Cavaliers came into Bedfordshire, which county they have wofully plundered, they have seized upon the town of Newport Pannell in the upper part of Buckinghamshire . . . . and have forced the inhabitants thereabouts to come in and intrench it, and they are drawing the river about it, the better to Strengthen and fortifie it, their drift being to intercept all cattell and other provisions that shall come out of all the adjacent counties to London, hoping thereby to cut off all victuals from this city, and so to starve it, if they be not timely prevented and unnestled out of that place. Beside infinite danger may befall the eastern Associated Counties if the Cavaliers be suffered to proceed in this enterprise, because they will have opportunity to draw all the malevolents out of those Counties to their side . . . . and thereby bring all the quietest part of the Kingdom into combustion and distraction."

1 Several of the following items are taken from an excellent paper by the Rev. H. Roundell on "The Garrison of Newport Pagnell during the Civil Wars,' which was published about 40 years ago in the "Bucks Records."

The "Welch Mercury" (No. 2) says:—"We heare from Newport Pannell . . . . that the Cavalliers make creat Fortifications to keep awle her cood cattells and Welch Runts and other provisions from comming to London, and by keeping out the fat beasts was make her have a ferrie lean citie, but the Trained Bands will not care a haire for the Cavalliers, but will set her packing out of Newport Pannell, and keep her from stopping her Welch Runts and good sheese from comming up to London; and if her should stop awle passages, yet some of her Sheeses have a creat many Leg (her will not say Maggots) that will in despight of the Cavalliers carrie them up to London, with superscriptions upon them to deliver them to her Cousin Sheese-monger."

No. 18 of the "Parliament Scout" mentions that it was supposed that the Royalists intended to quarter at Newport for the winter, and that Sir Lewis Dives, who was in charge of the operations, had summoned the County to bring in moneys, &c., by the 20th of October.

A letter written by an inhabitant of Northampton to a friend in London and published on 28th October, 1643, gives an account of a marauding expedition of Royalists under Prince Rupert, "the turne coate Urry," and others, who, after hovering round Northampton, marched to Castle Ashby and Olney, pillaging all the way, "especially at Oulney, where they left but four houses of any worth unplundered, and took carts to carry away their plunder with them, and so marched to Newport, where they intend a garrison."

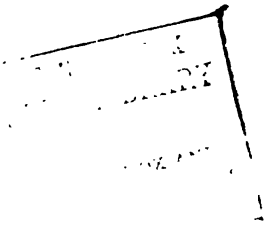
As a postscript the writer adds "The Troops of the Kinge doe since fortifie in Newport daily, if help be not sent, it will be a great mischiefe."

From these accounts, written by Parliamentarians, it will be seen that no small importance was attached to the possession of Newport, and it is not surprising that immediate steps were taken to drive out the Cavaliers and break the neck of the "pernitious plot" and supplant such a "subtle stratagem."

"His Excellency, the Parliament's Lord Generall, the Earle of Essex," hearing of the action of the Royalists, sent a strong force under Major-General Skippon "to drive the enemy out of their new fortifications which had been brought to a good forwardnesse."

Marching by way of Dunstable and Brickhill, Skippon's army came within touch of Newport on Friday, 27th October, and on

PHILIP SKIPPON



that day, whether by a mistake of orders, or whether by reason of Dives considering the 1500 men he is said to have had under him insufficient to defend the place, the Royalists evacuated the town, but not with such haste but they got plunder enough with them, making good that observation "that the greatest plunderers are not the valiantest men."[1]

Possibly to cover their retreat on "Friday night they gave Colonell Harvey's Regiment an alarm, whereupon his men, being in readiness, pursued the Cavaliers, tooke five of them and slew one of them, and had done great execution upon many of the rest had not they fled away so fast."[2]

The next day, Saturday, 28th October, 1643, Skippon and his force entered Newport and were amazed to see what a place of strength the Cavaliers had deserted, the Parliamentarians being of opinion that it could have been held a long time against them.

At this time the Earl of Essex was at St. Albans and determined to stay there "untill Newport Pannell be strongly fortified and well manned for the defence of those parts to keep the Cavaliers from thence another time."[3]

On Saturday, 4th November, his Excellency was still at S. Albans, while the London Greene Regiment fortified Newport.

While the "incompleated workes" were being finished the garrison was not inactive, for at the beginning of November "Colonell Harvey's Regiment of Horse gave the enemy an allarum in the night at Stoney Stratford, slew the Sentinells, entered the Town with the losse of some thirty of the Cavaliers, took eighteen prisoners, whereof five or six were said to be Commanders, and brought them safe into the Garrison at Newport Pannell."[4]

Mercurius Civicus (of 2nd to 9th November) states that "A Party of Horse (under the command of Colonel Harvey) were sent on Wednesday last from Newport Pannell to a Towne called Towcester, where a great party of the Cavaliers' forces lay, who, comming thither in the night, slew the enemy's Sentinels and unawares fell into their quarters, tooke two Colours, one and 20 prisoners, and brought them to Newport Pannell and slew at least 80 men; at which place the Greene Regiment do as yet continue, and are strongly fortifying thereof. This exploit was performed

1 "Parliament Scout," No. 19.
2 "Mercurius Civicus," No. 23.
3 "Certaine Informations," No. 43.
4 "The Weekly Account," No. 10.

without the losse of any of our souldiers, onely two of them were wounded, but yet so as there is hopes of their recovery."

The accounts of these two attacks are almost suspiciously alike.

From a statement in No. 11 of "Mercurius Britannicus" (2nd to 9th November, 1643) it would appear, if it is to be relied on, that there was fighting near Newport at this time, for the journal says:—"Aulicus tells us . . . . that Sir Charles Lucas is on the way with good forces towards the Easterne Counties of Cambridgeshire and Essex (Till he was beaten back from Newport Pannell by the Earle of Essex)."

The incident referred to may, however, perhaps be the taking of Newport.

In a pamphlet printed in London on 10th November, 1643, and entitled "The Happy Successe of the Parliament's Armie at Newport and some other places," the writer says:—

"That you may be mindfull to send me the Printed newes, I will as oft as I can acquaint you with what is materiall that I know to be Truth, for we have too many Lyes abroad in this licencious age; Nothing remarkable hath passed between the two armies in Northamptonshire until Thursday, Nov. 2, when betimes in the morning, by order from Major Generall Skipton, the Horse forces in Northampton, or rather some troops of them, were drawn forth, to fall on the enemies' Quarter that lay most remote to the North, while 3 regiments of his Horse, viz., Colonell Midleton's Regiment, Colonell Harvie's, & Colonell Turner's were sent out to fal on the South East part of their Quarters, for the King's Army lyes quartered at the least 10 miles in distance one from another, the Northampton Forces hapned on the Lord of Northampton's Regiment about Stowes, 6 miles from the Towne, set on them by breake of day, and slew 3 or 4 of them, and took 14 prisoners all horsemen, one a Coronet to the Earle of Northampton, & lost not one of their own: the London Regiments assaulted them at the same houre at Alderton, a mile from Geaston, they slew 15 on the ground, took 22 prisoners, and many horses which were left behind, the riders shifting for themselves better on foot into Geaston Park & other hedges, so that a horse-fayre was kept at Newport that day, and horses sold good cheape for ready mony, we lost but one man in this service. The Enemy to revenge this, did march all Friday night, & on Saturday morning, Novemb. 4, did set on our Quarters at Oulny, we first took 2 of their Scouts, by which we per-

ceived the approach of our danger; for their body of Horse, a very strong one too, fell into the Town upon us, and charged us resolutely, & were received as stoutly by our men, until we could orderly retreate to the Bridge, which with ease we made good against them, intending to keepe them in play untill our body came up to us from Newport, 3 miles off, but they had no list to stay so long, but some few faced us at the Bridge, whilst the rest retreated back, and by the way some of them were met by the Northampton forces, who hearing they were gone towards our quarters, sent out 7 or 8 troops of horse & about 500 foot they took of the enemy a Capt. of a Troop of horse, one Capt. Geerye, a Huntingdonshire man & a great malignant, his coronet, but not his colours (they have the trick to pull them of & throw the staff one way & the Colours another) they took also his trumpeter and 9 other troopers, which are all Prisoners in the towne.

POSTSCRIPT.

The Enemy falling on our Quarters at Oulny, had a purpose to have charged resolutely through the Towne, and bin Mrs. of the Bridge, at the South end next Newport, but our Musketeers were before them, and saluted them with two volley of shot, which drove them back, and by this time Colonell Harvey had drawne an indifferent body of Horse together, who came bravely on the enemy, but were by the great numbers driven backe, wee slew of them on the place, about 8 or 9, and they slew 5 of ours, many wounded on both sides; It being a very hot incounter for the time not exceeding halfe an houre, they got into the Towne, and in their lodgings tooke two Foot Collours, and two Drums, wee slew of theirs besides the other, a Captain of a Troope of Horse, and tooke his Cornet with his Collours, the Cornet desperately wounded, cannot live if he be not dead; They took of ours 15 Footmen, & we twelve Horsemen of theirs, the losse was something equall, & there was much mercy in it, that they were stopped before they came to the Bridge, for had they bin Mrs. of it they had divided us from our Army at Newport as they did, a Troope of our Regiment that lay in a village and could not come at us, but were constrained to get to Northampton, so that ours and the Northampton forces have taken and slaine neer 100 of others this weeke, with the losse of 6 men, and 15 Prisoners, no Officer as I can hereof; The Enemy retreated to Towcester, where they are with the greatest body, they have both horse and foot; if more

company comes down we shal give them another visit I hope, for we have good incouragement to action. God not being wanting to our weake endeavours, but hath followed us with his Blessings, the continuation whereof is the Prayer of Yours, &c."

The foregoing account of the Olney fight is from the pen of a Parliamentarian.

The truth seems to have been that Prince Rupert, to avenge the skirmishes at Alderton, Stowe, and Stoney Stratford, made a determined and most successful attack on the Roundheads at Olney, about seven o'clock in the morning. His force consisted of several troops of horse, 400 dragoons, and 200 musqueteers carried on horseback behind the cavalry. The Parliamentarians kept a bad watch, and within a quarter of an hour of the alarm Rupert was upon them and carried all before him. At the bridge there was a rally, but the musqueteers coming up, the Parliament's forces retreated. The success was so complete and sudden that the Royalists, fearing an ambush, did not pursue Colonel Harvey, who was in charge of the Parliamentarians, and lost 60 killed, 40 prisoners, 120 horses, and two stands of colours.

Rupert did not remain in the neighbourhood, and the next day the Roundheads re-occupied Olney.

Skippon, for some little time after, gave up his offensive attitude and contented himself with fortifying Newport "with motes and drawbridges," which were inspected in the course of November by the Earl of Essex.

An ordinance as to the Newport Garrison having been passed by both Houses was printed on 18th December, 1643.

It provides that the town shall be strongly fortified and provisioned, that the £1000 required for the purpose shall be raised by the following counties:—Bedford, £187 10s.; Hertford, £125; Northampton, £125; Huntingdon, £45; Cambridge cum Ely, £80; Suffolk, £125; Essex, £125; Norfolk, £125; the three Hundreds of Newport, £62 10s. Any further sums necessary were to be raised rateably on this basis.

For the maintenance of the works and garrison and a body of 300 horse and their officers, a monthly allowance of £4000 from 1st December was ordered to be paid as under:—

Bedford £750	Huntingdon £180	Essex £500
Hertford £500	Cambridge £320	Norfolk £500
Northampton £500	Suffolk £500	Newport Hundreds £250

For providing a garrison, it was ordered that within 14 days after the passing of the Ordinance, the undermentioned counties should send in soldiers:—Bedford, 225 foot; Hertford, 125; Northampton, 150; Huntingdon, 45; Cambridge, 105; Suffolk, 150; Essex, 150; Norfolk, 150; and the Newport Hundreds, 75; the Earl of Essex to nominate a Governor.

In the event of attack or during siege, power was given the Governor to put on duty all able-bodied men within the town; to compel the richer persons to provide the poorer with arms under penalty of being put out of the garrison; and also to appoint a mayor with a salary of 9s. a day to receive and give orders and command the townsmen.

It is not improbable that it was at this time John Bunyan, then about 16 to 17 years of age, was sent to Newport, and Dr. Brown in a preface to an edition[1] of the "Holy War," remarks, "Mansoul, with its walls, gates, strongholds, and sallyport, is not unlike to Newport Pagnell at the time it was fortified according to the parliamentary ordinance of 1643, and when Bunyan was probably a soldier within its walls." Since the edition was issued, the old Muster Rolls of the garrison have been found, and conclusively show that Bunyan was one of the Newport garrison for two or three years.

While speaking of Bunyan it is, too, interesting to note that his first published work, "Some Gospel Truths Opened . . . by that Unworthy Servant of Christ, John Bunyan of Bedford, by the Grace of God Preacher of the Gospel of his Dear Son," bears the following imprint, "London, printed for J.W., and are to be sold by Mathias Cowley, Bookseller in Newport Pagnell, 1656."

The only known copy of the first edition of this book is (1887), says Dr. Brown, in the possession of Mr. Wm. Tarbutt, of Cranbrook. The Doctor suggests that perhaps the imprint ran as it did because there was then no bookseller in Bedford, or that Bunyan may, for reasons of friendship, have resorted to one whose acquaintance he made in his soldiering days.

Close on Christmas, Skippon, secure in his ordinance, planned an attack on Grafton House. An account of the expedition entitled "A true Relation of the taking of Grafton House by the Parliaments Forces under the Command of Serjeant Major Skipton," was published on 29th December, 1643, and is a copy

1 Holy War. Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1887.

of a letter written by W. B. from Newport Pannell on 25th December, 1643, to a friend in London. It runs thus :—

"On Thursday night last, about eight a clocke, there was command given, for a party of a thousand foot or thereabouts, to be ready to march the next morning by two of the clocke; whereupon they met at their Rendezvouze at Lathbury a mile from hence, where a brave party of horse of our owne, and Colonell Norwiches met with us, and were our Van and Reare-guard, so we marcht with foure pieces of Artillery towards Grafton Regis six miles off from this place, where we understood that our Enemies were inclosed in a strong house of the Ladie Craines and the Church of the same Towne; whereupon we faced it, and leaving it on our right hand, we marcht forward towards Toxiter as though we had beene bound thitherward. But when we came within a mile of the said Towne of Toxiter wee met with a party of horse and foot that came from Northampton to our assistance, under the command of Colonell Wettam, whereupon wee faced about, and the party of the Orange Regiment, which before brought up the Reare, then marcht in the Van, and Colonell Williams Forces followed in the Reare of the party that came from Newport. But when we came within sight of the house, the ould soldiers of my Lords outmarcht us and gave the onset on the house very couragiously and were as bravely answered, and by reason of the strength of the walls and well fortifying of the same, our Musqueteers did them small injury at that time; whereupon there were two of our pieces planted against the house and played upon it, but they did not much annoy them neither. On the Saturday morning the Orange and Greene Regiments relieved my Lords souldiers and when any advantage could be gained against our Enemies we made use of it. They within had very long pieces and could reach us at a great distance. At our guard we having found a convenient place to plant a piece made use of it and beat down with our Sacre before Saturday night a breastwork on the top of the house, which had done us much annoyance and also a window whereat they shot out at us. On Sunday morning we were relieved by these Northampton forces, under the command of Colonell Wettam and about two hours after he had the guard, they within sounded a parley but through the eagernesse of the Souldiers the Drum was shot; but not slaine outright, whereupon they sent out a Trumpet and had parley granted for halfe an houre,

and after that another halfe houre, so then they yeelded themselves prisoners being in number ninescore and seven besides Officers whereof Sir John Digbie was chiefe there was another Officer of note, viz. Major Brookbanck, and diverse Captaines, some of them men of about 700 li, yeare a piece whose names are to me unknowne. About two of the clocke on Sunday the souldiers entered the house, where they found great and rich plunder, which they had for their paines; In the taking of this house wee lost about 20 men and had hurt 10, besides 9 that were hurt by our own powder. On Christmas Day, before day, order was given to fire our huts which we had made in the field, and for prevention of future inconveniences the house was fired also, so we marcht with our prisoners (guarded by those other forces that assisted us) towards Newport very weary by reason of the foulnesse of the weather and deepenesse of the way, but praised be God we came safely thither where we now lye expecting reliefe every day, that we may come and rest our selves. I thank God that neither myselfe nor any of my souldiers are hurt, nor not one of our Regiment slaine, notwithstanding we were in great danger and hazard, I beseech God make us thankfull for this preservation of us, there were some that came to us on our guard as spectators, being a surveyor of the workes, and a Captain of a Troope of Horse slaine at one shot, and also a Gunner that belonged to the Sacre in our guard."

Early in January the London forces left Newport, their places being supplied by the new levies raised by the Earl of Manchester.

The Governor was soon able to make use of them, for the Royalists having withdrawn from Towcester and Stoney Stratford, he sent Captain Abercromby with 100 men to reconnoitre near Buckingham. The Captain possessed himself of Hillesden House, the garrison retreating, and issued peremptory notices for money and supplies to the people of Brackley. His orders not being complied with, he was on his way on 4th February, to enforce them, when he was taken prisoner and his troops dispersed by the Royalists.

On 25th January Skippon asked to be relieved and Sir Samuel Luke was appointed Governor.

Sir Samuel was an energetic Parliamentarian, and soon after his appointment he arranged a successful attack on Hillesden House, which had been re-occupied by the Royalists, and marched off the

prisoners to Newport Pagnell. In the "Verney Memoirs" (vol. ii. p. 193) it is stated that "It is difficult to ascertain the exact truth about the treatment of the [Hillesden] garrison, consisting of 263 men. The King's News Journal accuses Sir S. Luke of great barbarity. The Parliamentary Reporter admits the death of thirty-one men."

He also had to give his attention to the earthworks at Newport, the heavy rains having caused them in many places to give way, and on 11th March he writes the Speaker of the House of Commons, "Ye workes are not halfe finished nor any Ordnance planted upon either Rampires or Bulworkes, neither can there bee any place fitted for yem but wth a greate deale of tyme and a greate deale of charge."

It would appear that one of Cromwell's sons served in the Newport garrison, for the "Parliament Scout" for March 15—22, 1643-4[1] states "Colonell Cromwell is gone with his forces from Buckingham to Stony Stratford and Brickhill, and begins to increase in power; he hath lost his eldest son who is dead of the small pox in Newport [Pagnell], a civill young gentleman and the joy of his father."

In Frederick Harrison's "Life of Cromwell" (p. 25) the son is spoken of as the second son, Oliver, the eldest, Robert, having died at Felsted in May, 1639. It would appear that it is to the loss of Oliver that Cromwell alludes in his letter to Colonel Walton, dated "Leaguer before York, 5th July, 1644," reporting the death of Walton's son in battle, when he writes: "Sir, God hath taken away your eldest son . . . . Sir, you know my own trials this way, but the Lord supported me with this, that the Lord took him into the happiness we all pant for and live for."

There does not appear to be any entry of Oliver Cromwell the younger's burial in the Church Registers.

The Parliament was sorely pressed for funds at this time, but they resolved that letters be sent to the Contributory Counties to duly remit the sums due for the maintenance of Newport garrison, and Sir Samuel, too, put in force the warrant for the sequestration of Estates of Delinquents and Papists and required the tenants, bailiffs, and officers of all such and of all University and Ecclesiastical lands, to bring in all their rents to the Committee of

1 King's Pamphlets, No. 148, p. 5 of tract.

Newport at the Saracen's Head upon the 25th April, by nine o'clock, to be paid for the use of the King and the Kingdome.

On 10th June, 1644, the Newport Committee obtained for Sir Samuel a Commission as Colonel over the 1200 foot garrisoning Newport, induced the House to vote £500 to Captain Temple of Newport garrison (who had been successful in a skirmish at Islip, and the pay of whose men was in arrear), to send a Brass Culverin of 41 0 7 and a demi Culverin of 40 0 25 to Newport instead of Two Sacres and One Drake previously there, which were ordered to be sent to Tamworth Castle, and to give Luke leave with the consent of the Bucks Committee, or any two of them, to fell as much timber upon the lands of Papists and Delinquents as he required for the better fortification of the Garrison.

It was fortunate for Luke that these orders had been given, for on the 22nd of June the King, quartering for several days at Buckingham, sent the Earl of Cleveland with a Brigade of Horse to Newport Pannel, hoping that he might draw his old acquaintance, Luke, who, however, "would not be invited forth." In the interim a party of the King's horse took sixteen cartloads of wine, grocery, and tobacco, intended for Coventry and Warwick, at Brickhill, so the excursion was not altogether fruitless.[1]

The Royalists soon left Buckingham, but Luke continued to pay every attention to the fortifications (at one time employing between three and four thousand labourers) and to press the Parliament for supplies. At intervals, too, he sent his men out on marauding expeditions, and in December, 1644, Newport is mentioned in the State Papers as having been made one of the strongest places in the kingdom.

While the Garrison was temporarily weakened in the succeeding January a plot to attack Newport was discovered by Luke's spies and steps taken which prevented its coming to fruition.

In October, 1644, Luke wrote an interesting letter to Mr. Whitaker, which is among the Stowe MS. In it he mentions that there were seven able divines in the town, two sermons every Sabbath, one every Thursday, and a chapter read and prayers every morning before the placing of the Guards. No one was allowed out of their houses after 9 o'clock at night. The people round about were in Luke's opinion "most Papists or

1 "His Majesty's Happy Progress and Success," 30th March to 23rd November, 1644, by Sir Edward Walker, 1705, p. 29.

Atheists and extreme averse to the Parliament party, very few of ye Divines or gentry neare ye I believe will take ye Covenant." A little later in another letter he hopes a Mr. Ford, who he considers an able man, will not be removed from a congregation of 1500, where he is extraordinarily well approved of. He adds that he has put down private assemblies in Newport, but that they have them not far off twice or thrice a week.

In March, 1645, a feud arose between two officers, Major Christopher Ennis[1] and Captain Andrewes, because the former had been rewarded by a Major's Commission for successful actions at Kiddington and elsewhere, and it was only settled by sending the two officers and their men to different parts of the country.

This was no sooner disposed of than a dispute as to who should have the command of the senior company arose between Captains Oxford and Whitbread.

The Roundhead soldiers at this time were, so far as regarded the Newport neighbourhood, much demoralised and mutinously inclined, largely owing to lack of pay, and Luke's correspondence contains many complaints as to arrears of payments and other matters. In one letter he observed that he had "None but raw men, and neither vicheal, ammunition, nor anything else to hold out four days, and all the complaints and petitions I have poured out would neither procure me money to buy nor order to take up anything." He also observed: "The wants of the soldiers are such that that they are not fitting to be put on paper, only I shall beg your Excellency's pardon if I acquaint you with one particular. There were in my Company two that had but one payre of Britches betweene them, soe that when one was up the other must upon necessity be in his bed."[2]

Newport was, however, regarded as "the strategic outpost and bulwark of the Association, and was the point of contact with the King's forces from Oxford," so doubtless in time Luke's wishes were attended to.

1 In the State Papers, Dom. Series, May—July, 1657, are testimonials as to the gallant behaviour of Major Ennis, one being given by Henry Deane under date 6th Jan., 1653, and the other by Nathaniel Whetham, once a Governor of Northampton, dated 7th January, 1654. The latter certifies that the Major commanded a Troope of Horse at Newport Garrison, which he had for the most part raised at his own expense, and "with which hee did very eminent service in order to the preservation of that Garrison and other places adjacent wheare the Parliament forces quartered, in which services he received dangerous hurts and wounds neere to the hazard of his life."

2 Luke, f. 236, Stow MS., B.Mus.

When, however, Leicester was surrendered on 1st June, 1645, there was more or less of a panic at Newport, but Sir Thomas Fairfax, raising the siege of Oxford, and marching by way of Marsh Gibbon, Great Brickhill, and Newport Pagnell, reached Sherrington on 7th June, and here or at Weston he appears to have been joined by Cromwell. Sir Samuel did not feast the General on the ground of want of accommodation, but seems to have limited his hospitality to showing him round the works of the garrison, giving him a "peale of ordnance," and providing him and his followers with wine.[1]

Naseby Battle was fought on Saturday, 14th June, and the Governor of Newport ordered that a public thanksgiving for the victory should be celebrated in the Parish Church on the following day.[2]

Two captains of Fairfax's army named Hobson and Beaumont, on their way to London, happened to be in Newport, and on Sunday morning instead of attending church delivered, as Hobson puts it, a "treatise to some friends in a quiet and peaceable manner in Newport Pagnell and Lathbury," for the which they were imprisoned by the Governor, and sent back to Fairfax as stragglers from the army. Fairfax resented this treatment of his officers however, and the ensign and provost martial who arrested them were eventually cashiered.

Two at least of Paul Hobson's discourses, entitled "A Garden Inclosed" and "Wisdom justified only of her children," being "the exercises" which got him into trouble at Newport, were published in 1647.

On 26th June Luke's command came to an end, and he went to London to attend to his duties as member for Bedford, and in January, 1647, obtained a settlement of the arrears of pay, in all £4,482 13s. 6d., due to him as colonel of a troop of horse and Governor of Newport.

From this time he gradually became less active in the cause of the Parliament, and after again representing Bedford in the new Parliament he retired from public life, and dying at his seat at Cople Beds, was buried there 30th August, 1670.

Sir Samuel Luke is perhaps better known as the original of

1 East Anglia and The Great Civil War. Alfred Kingston, 1897.

2 Luke, once being ill, says, "Ye very sitting in ye church one sermon tyme makes me ill 2 or 3 days after."

Butler's Hudibras (see end of Canto I. Part I.), than as the energetic Governor of Newport. Tradition has it, and Butler too, that Luke wore a long grizzled beard in fulfilment of some vow, but the photograph, from a portrait, in the Bucks Records of 1862, represents him as clean shaven.

On the recommendation of Sir Thomas Fairfax, written from Sherrington on 8th June, Captain Charles D'Oyley was appointed to succeed Sir Samuel on 12th June, notwithstanding the candidature of Lieutenant Colonel Cokaine and Major Temple.

In August the King passed through Bucks from Woburn, in his return to Oxford, but there was no thought of attacking Newport.

Towards the close of the summer of 1645, the garrison was ordered to be reduced to 800 foot and 120 horse, but in November, 1645, there is a document in the State Papers requesting that horse and dragoons be sent to Newport to prevent the levying of taxes, which the enemy had laid on the country.

During the autumn and winter the troops seem to have behaved in a very lawless manner, and an ordinance for exercising martial law was passed in January, 1646.

The King's cause from this time rapidly declined, and in the autumn of 1646 the fortifications of Newport were ordered to be dismantled and the garrison disbanded.

The order for slighting the fortifications was not, however, carried into immediate effect, for on 6th May, 1648—9, the Committee of both Houses, writing Lieutenant-General Fairfax, say they consider it very dangerous that such a place should be left in such a tenable position liable to be seized and kept by malignants, and that they have therefore written the Committee of the Eastern Association that the fortifications may be instantly slighted.[1-2]

The order was apparently substantially obeyed, but the remains of the embankments were until some 50 years since very apparent on the site of the Gas Works, in Hilly Close (the site of the Cemetery), and Bury Field.

1 Cal. State Papers. Domestic, Charles I., 1648-49.

2 A petition from the inhabitants of Newport and district was presented to Cromwell at White Hall in December, 1648, desiring that the King might be brought to speedy justice, &c.

PART VI.

NOTABLES.

CHAPTER I.

THE BRIDGES.

AT what date the first bridges over the Ouse and Lovat, or Lovent, were constructed it is impossible to say, but it is probable that it was at a very early stage of the town's history. In the various old records there are many references to them, and several of the allusions will be found in the pages of this book.

Perhaps, however, the first important document having a special bearing on the bridges, and which incidentally proves their even then antiquity is a grant of Richard II. in 1381 authorising the taking of tolls in order that funds might be raised to properly repair them, they then being in a ruinous and dangerous condition. The grant incidentally, too, shows the nature of the goods then dealt in, and runs thus :—

"The King[1] to his beloved Thomas Cowe Robert Bowes John Taillour of Newport Paynel and Simon Swet Greeting Know ye that in aid of the mending and repairing of the bridges of Northbrigge and Southbrigge in the town of Newport Paynell which are broken and injured to the grievous damage and danger of the men crossing by the said bridges and for the mending and repairing whereof the men of the said town are from year to year

1 Pat. Rolls, 4 Richard II., part 1, m. 4.

as we understand heavily charged we have by our special grace granted to you that from the day of making these presents up to the end of three years next following fully to be completed you may take by the hands of those whom you trust and for whom you are willing to answer of things saleable passing over and under the said bridges[1] the customs underwritten namely for every horse load of corn one farthing, for every cartload of corn one halfpenny, for every horse mare ox and cow one farthing, for every horseload of cloth one halfpenny, for every whole cloth one farthing, for every hundredweight of linen cloth canvas cloths of Ireland Galewath and Worstede one halfpenny, for every cask of wine or cineres[2] one halfpenny, for every cartload of honey one halfpenny, for every bundle of cloth brought by a cart twopence, for every hundredweight of avoirdupois one penny, for every weight of tallow and grease one farthing, for every quarter of wood one halfpenny, for every hundredweight of alum copperas clay and verdegrease one farthing, for every two thousand weight of tallow one farthing, for ten bundles of garlic one farthing, for every thousand herrings one farthing, for every cartload of sea fish one penny, for every horseload of sea fish one farthing, for every hundredweight of planks one halfpenny, for every millstone one farthing, for every quarter of salt one farthing, for every weight of cheese[3] or butter one farthing, for every cartload of wood or charcoal one farthing, for every quarter of oak bark one farthing, for every bundle of any merchandise above the sum of five shillings one farthing, for every hundredweight of tin brass and copper one halfpenny, for every hundredweight of bundles of steel one farthing, for every other thing of the value of five shillings not here specified crossing over and under the said bridges, wool leather hides lamitis and also iron and lead whilst taxed excepted, one farthing. And therefore we command you that you take the said customs until the end of three years and apply them towards the repair and mending of the said bridges, as is aforesaid, but when the term of the said three years is completed the said customs shall entirely cease and be discontinued. In testimony &c. to last during the said three years.

1 The Tolls are in every case applicable only to goods which are on sale or to be sold, the word used being venalis.

2 Bailey's Dictionary gives "Cineres (among Chymists) Ashes made of Tartar, or the Lees of wine burnt."

3 A wey or weight of cheese was then 168, 256, or 300 lbs.

Witness the King at Northampton the 20th day of November."

The question of the repair of the bridges was doubtless always an ever-present trouble to the inhabitants, notwithstanding that various legacies were left towards the expense and that part of the income from certain charities was applied for the like purpose, and at the Manorial Courts held both in 1720 and 1721 the feoffees were presented for not keeping the two bridges in repair.[1]

At the commencement of the nineteenth century the two bridges were in a very unsafe condition, and the inhabitants in January, 1809, resolved to deal with the matter.

The necessity for this course was undoubted, for on 28th January, 1809, the Northampton Mercury states:—

"Early yesterday morning the Defiance Manchester stage coach, on its way from London, was overturned upon the North bridge, Newport. From the overflowing of the water, in consequence of the thaw, and the great rapidity of the current, several large holes had been washed in the bridge, but at the time of the accident were entirely imperceptible, so that no blame can possibly attach to the Coachman. The passengers—three insides—we are happy to state, sustained no material injury. Joseph Keates Esqre. of Cheapside, was the only person hurt, who received a slight contusion on the head. The coachman and guard, though precipitated into the stream, fortunately escaped without other harm than a complete ducking. This very narrow escape is another alarming proof of the absolute and immediate necessity for adopting the only efficient means of obviating similar accidents on one of the most crowded roads to the British metropolis, namely rebuilding and widening both the Newport bridges on an improved plan. We feel highly gratified in being able to announce, that such plan, with an estimate, has been taken, a subscription set on foot, and that immediate application will be made to Parliament for that purpose, under the auspices of a Committee of the most respectable gentlemen of the town and the three hundreds of Newport, to whose laudable exertions we are happy to pay this tribute of applause."

Speaking of this flood, Mr. George Osborn, of Newport, says:—"The Green covered with water. Every house in Tickford end water in them. People obliged to live upstairs."

1 The first Lathbury Bridge, being only built in 1740, is not one of the old town bridges, and is dealt with elsewhere. Vide p. 10 ante.

In the Northampton Mercury of 6th May, 1809, another coach accident, not connected, however, with the condition of the bridges, is mentioned, it being recorded that:—

"On Thursday morning, about one o'clock, the Hope coach on its way to London, was overturned a little on this side Newport Bridge. All the outside passengers, together with the coachman and guard, were thrown over the railing into the meadow, but fortunately only one passenger received any material injury. The accident appears to have originated in the leaders taking fright." All which goes to show that travelling was by no means devoid of accidents and unpleasant surprises in those days, notwithstanding the advertisements of pleasant travel of which a specimen has been given elsewhere.

The Act known as 49 Geo. III., c. 144, and intituled "An Act for taking down and rebuilding certain parts of North Bridge and Tickford Bridge in the parish of Newport Pagnell and Lathbury in the County of Buckingham and for widening and making more commodious the said bridges and the approaches thereto," to which the Royal assent was given in June, 1809, was therefore a timely one.

By it, bridge trustees were arranged for, who were authorised to borrow a sum not exceeding £12,000 to carry out the necessary works, and to repay the same and interest by means of tolls which they were thereby empowered to levy.

The reconstruction of the bridges was at once put in hand, and in June, 1810, the first stone of the abutments of the cast iron bridge over the Lovat was laid by Mr. Provis, of Paddington, the architect.

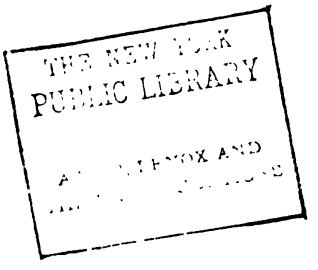
In digging the foundations for the new bridges, a quantity of oak timber was found buried at a considerable depth which appeared to be the remains of wooden bridges that stood on the same spots previous to the erection of the old stone bridges.[1]

The monies borrowed were in due course repaid by the trustees, and the tolls authorised by the Act have for a long period ceased to be demanded and taken.

The necessary repairs were for many years paid for out of the income derived from the properties of the trustees, and the moneys paid by the feoffees of the Town Lands but a few years since, the control of the main roads and many of the bridges having

1 Tour of the Grand Junction Canal, by J. Hassell, London, 1819.

NEWPORT PAGNELL.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passed into the hands of the County Council, it was deemed desirable to hand over to that body the bridges and the endowments of the same.

A Provisional Order known as the County of Buckingham (Tickford and North Bridges) Order, 1897, was therefore obtained and duly confirmed by a Confirmation Act on 15th July in that year.

The Order, after reciting the Act of George III.; that the trustees had erected three bridges one called the North Bridge over the main channel of the River Ouse, one over a channel through which part of the River Ouse flowed in time of flood, and the third called the Tickford Bridge over the River Lovatt; that the trustees were possessed of the properties purchased for the purposes of the Act mentioned in the Schedule thereto; that they were possessed of £679 19s. 3d. 2¾ per cent. consolidated stock and certain cash; and that it had been agreed that the bridges and properties should be taken over by the County Council, goes on to provide that its provisions should take effect from 13th September, 1897, that the bridges and premises should by virtue thereof be deemed transferred to the Council; that from the date of transfer the bridges should be deemed county bridges and be free from all tolls; that the bridge trustees from the last-named date should be abolished and cease to exist; that the Bridge Act, save sections 40 and 41 thereof, should be repealed; and that "subject to any scheme made by the Charity Commissioners under the Charitable Trusts Acts 1853 to 1891 any moneys payable under section 40 or section 41 of the Bridge Act to the bridge trustees shall after the date of transfer be paid to the County Council and shall be carried by them to the credit of the County Fund."

Besides the premises referred to under Child's Gift in the charities section, and the consols, the Schedule to the Order includes the messuage yard workshop and garden on the south-east side of Tickford Street then in the occupation of John Mitchell; a piece of garden ground or yard adjoining Tickford Bridge on the north-east side used as a timber yard in the occupation of Edward David Mitchell together with the passage way to the river; and a piece of ground or yard adjoining Tickford Bridge on the south-east side then in the occupation of John Mitchell with the passage way to the river.

The order of the Charity Commissioners, elsewhere referred to, with reference to the Town Lands, makes provision for the payment to the County Council of a fourth part of the income of that charity, to be applied in reduction of the county rate in the civil parish of Newport Pagnell.

CHAPTER II.

CALDECOT.

CALDECOT is a hamlet within the parish of Newport Pagnell. The word "Caldecot" means "a cold dwelling" (Calde= cold; cote=a dwelling of the poorer kind).

It is mentioned in Domesday, and the three references to it there found, all under the heading of Sigelai Hundred, are as follows :—[1]

"William [Fitz Ansculf] holds three hides and one virgate in Caldecote. There is land to two ploughs. There is one in the demesne, and another may be made. There is one villane, and one mill of eight shillings; and a certain knight has there half a hide with half a plough. Meadow for one plough. Pannage for one hundred hogs. It is and was always worth forty shillings. Two vassals of Vlf's held this Manor and might sell it.

"In Caldecote. Alured holds of the Earl [Morton] four hides and one virgate for one manor. There is land to four ploughs. There is one and a half in demesne and a half may yet be made. There are two vavasors there who pay thirty two shillings and sixpence and one villane and five bordars with two ploughs. There is one bondsman and one mill of five ores and four pence. Meadow for two ploughs. Pannage for twenty four hogs; and twenty eight pence for custom. The whole value is and always was four pounds. Four thanes held this manor in King Edward's times and might sell it and give it to whom they would.

"Suarting holds two hides and a half in Caldecote. There is land to one plough. There is one there and another may be made. One hide and a half are in demesne. There are two bordars; and meadow for one plough. It is and was always worth twenty shillings. Gonni, a vassal of Aluric's the son of Goding, held this land and might sell it."

1 Bawdwen's Domesday, 1812.

In view of its present size it is difficult to understand these entries as to the hamlet, but from ancient documents it appears that Willen was joined to Caldecot, the two being described as "Wilne cum Caldecote, una villa."

In 1187 Gervase Paganell confirmed a gift to Tickford Priory of Caldecote Mill and half a virgate of land belonging to it, and in 1307 there was a dispute as to a right of fishery in Caldecote water between Robert de Lydington and Alice his wife and Prior William de Menevere.[1]

There was another fishery dispute in 35 Edward I, Nicholas de Eure then complaining that certain evildoers had fished in his several fishery at Caldecot next Neuport Paynell and taken fish therefrom.[2]

In 16 Edward II., on the death of John de Somery, it was found that Nicholas de Eure held a quarter of a knight's fee in Caldecote of the value of 10s. per annum.[3]

In the reign of Edward III. certain rights of common[4] were given to the Master of St. John's Hospital, as mentioned elsewhere.

On an Inquisition[5] held at Newport on 11th December, 1418, it was found that Thomas Caldecote died seised in his Lordship as of fee of the Manor of Caldecote, which manor was held of the King in capite by suit and services at the leet of the King of the hundred of Segelow at the two annual terms, namely, at the feast of Easter and St. Michael and paying to the King 22s. [of rent] at the feast of St. Martin. The jurors also found that he died seised of two virgates of land lying within the vill of Newport, which he held of Joan Beauchamp, lady of Bergeveney, as of her manor of Newport Paynell in socage. Also a virgate of land in Calverton, which was held of the Earl of Oxford. And that there was in the said manor a caracute of land which was worth annually 24s. and five acres of meadow worth 2s. And that the site of the manor was worth nothing. And that the virgate held of Lady Bergeveney was worth 5s. and that held of the Earl of Oxford 10s.

The Jurors further stated that Thomas Caldecote died on the Tuesday next after the Feast of the Conception of the Virgin Mary

1 Vide Chapter on Tickford, p. 70. 2 Pat. Rolls, 35 Edward I., m., 11 d.

3 Inq. p. mortem, John de Somery, 16 Edward II., No. 72.

4 Vide account of Hospital.

5 Inq. post mortem, 5 Henry VI., No. 16. Lipscomb seems to consider that the Caldecote here referred to is the Brickhill one, but this does not appear to be the case, as the Brickhill Caldecote is in Molesho Hundred.

last past. And that William Caldecote was his son and next heir, and was upwards of five years of age.

Lipscomb says the Manors of Willen and Caldecote were assured to Andrew Hanchet in the time of Henry IV., but the statement does not seem correct in the face of the above quoted Inquisition.

Willis, moreover, states that the Hanchett family possessed the Manors of Caldecote and Willen in the time of Henry VII., and that on 20th October, 1509, Thomas Hanchett, of Bedford, gent., died seised of them, leaving William Hanchett, his son and heir. William left two sons, Andrew and John, and the latter sold both manors to John White in 1542.[1]

Soon afterwards, in 1544, John White was a party to some proceedings which resulted from his enclosing 80 acres of land at Caldecote, a witness stating that the inhabitants of Newport Pagnell "had comen in a parcel of a Slade there callyd holy Roode Slade which comen they had but once in three years." Another witness, too, deposed that "the inhabitants had comen in the Slade called Tonyon Slade by the sufferance of the said John White."[2]

The Whites continued owners of Caldecot for several generations.

In 15 Charles II. Thomas White, of Caldecote, was ordered to pay £2 yearly to Queen Anne's Hospital, as stated elsewhere, and it was to his memory that a stone in the church was inscribed thus:

"Here lieth the Body of Thomas White, Esq., late Lord of the Manor of Caldecote, who, having obtained a good property, died in the Faith of Christ, the 26th day of September, A.D. 1670, in the 60th year of his age. He lived piously towards God, justly towards men, temperately as to himself. He was a loving Husband, a provident Father, a prudent peacemaker, a faithful Friend, a Benefactor to the poor, a great promoter of the public Good. He did much in a little time. Non tam diu, sed quam bene. The memorial of the just is blessed. Prov. x. 7."

A Mary White, described as wife of Thomas White, the younger, of Caldecote, died 15th July, 1635, aged 38. A Thomas White, too, of Caldecot, married Elizabeth Bolton, on 2nd April, 1657.

In 1692 William White, the Elder, of Caldecote, by his Will gave £1000 to his wife, £1000 to William his eldest son, and £500

1 Willis MSS. 2 Court of Augmentations, Vol. 126, f. 18.

to Samuel his younger son, and appointed Sir William Roberts, of Essex, Bart., and James Tirrel, Esq., his executors.

A Samuel White died 11th October, 1701.

In about 1696, however, Caldecot was sold to Roger Chapman, of Newport Pagnell, attorney (who died 15th February, 1702), for payment of William White's debts, and in 1734 Thomas Chapman, his son, was the owner.

In the Charity Commissioners' Report of 1833, John Andrew Lyon is stated to be the owner of the Manor of Caldecot.

CHAPTER III.

BURY FIELD AND PORT FIELD.[1]

NEWPORT has been fortunate in the retention of one of its common fields, Bury Field, in an unenclosed state. The field has already been several times referred to in the preceding pages, but there are certain other items of information, both as to it and the enclosed Port Field, which it seemed best to group together in a separate chapter, and this has therefore been done, each item being given a sub-heading.

ANCIENT COURT ROLLS.

There are some old Court Rolls of Henry VIII. still extant, at the Record Office, of the View of Frankpledge, Port Court, and Unbodmote Court.

One of these rolls contains an account of an arrangement between Richard Moore, of Newport, and William Sheppard, of Great Brickhill, as to the granting of a lease by Moore to Sheppard of an inclosure called "The Kekyle," and for the which besides rent Sheppard appears to have agreed at the Bell in Newport to give twenty calves. At the same Court the tenancy of Solage Close is referred to. Also there was a presentment that the custom was in ancient times that the farmer of Beryfield should keep the pasture several annually from the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary up to the feast of the Invention of the Cross. Also that the tenants of the town of Newport aforesaid should put their beast to pasture up to that feast, in accordance with custom from ancient usage.

COURT ROLLS OF 1670.

The minutes of the Court held in this year contain the following references to the Common Fields:—

"The jury doe order John Johnson to scour up the wattercourse

1 The names "Bury" Field and "Port" Field probably merely signify "Town" Field.

at ye stille in Bury Field next ye mill before ye 17th of this instant Aprill and for every day after ye 17th of Aprill y^t^ he suffers it to Lye unscoured to forfite to ye Lord 4s. 6d. for every day after ye same.

"It is agreed that no man shall keep above 4 beast and 4 sheepe for a yard land in Tickford feild and so proportionably more or lesse.

"Wee doe order that any person surcharging the comon (Bury Field or Mead) shall pay for every head of Cattell surcharging 10s. to the Lord."

COURT HELD 8TH OCTOBER, 1672.

At "ye Court Leete and Court Barron holden for ye Manour of Newport Pagnell" the Jury made, among other presentments, the following:—

"Mr. Richard Worrall ffor surcharging Port Field Common by sheepe; ffor surcharging the bury field with 5 head of Cattell contrary to the orders of the last Court; and for making a hedge and ditch in bury field.

"Thomas White for keeping 6 hoggs one ringed [i.e., unringed] contorary to the orders of this Court.

"Y^t^ John Johnson did not repaire ye pound belonging to the bury field according to the order of the last Cor^te^.

"Richd Worrall Ralph Houton Rich^d^ . . . Jefery Potter Will Ffreetone Ed. Lyghting John Warren . . . . and Will Coale have notwithstanding an order made in the last Corte kept upon the greene and portefield of Newport six geese apiece generally to the great damage of the said comon contrarie to the former orders made in that case.

"Tho. Holliday and Willm Goodye for erecting of severall houses upon the Comon of the port feilde and we doe order the said parties to take downe the said houses before ye first day of Decr. next unless they doe compound wth the freeholders for a Rent to continue thire standing."

There were also orders to the following effect:—

"That noe person whatsoever having Right of Common within Bury Field . . . . shall put or cause to be putt any kind of Cattell whatsoever in the field aforesaid caled bury field one lesse he or they hath an Absolute property to such Cattell soe to be putt in as aforesaid one paine of 20s. for every head of cattell that shall be putt in to the field aforesaid contorary to this order.

"That noe person or persons whatsoever shall take in or putt in any out towne Cattell whatsoever into the field called bury field . . . . one paine to forfeite to the Lord 20s. for every such cattell.

"That noe cattell shall be sufored to go into buryfield but such that shall be branded with the towne brand upon payne of forfeiting 5s. to the Lord of this mannor and if the field keeper shall neglect the dowing of it he shall forfeit 5s. for every offence to the lord.

"That John Potter present field keeper repaire the pound and fences and make an Iron Latch to the gate of the buryfield within 40 days upon penalty of paying of tenn shilling to the lord of this manner and that he keepe them in like repaire upon the like penaltie for every month.

"That the present field keeper after he hath got the mounds of the buryfield into good repair if he shall find any hogg trespassing in the buryfield if he shall impound them he shall have two pence for each hogg soe impounded.

COPY OF OLD HAND BILL.

According to the last survey taken of the Manner of Newport Pagnell by the Kings Commissioners and principal inhabitants of the said Manner upon their oaths.

It is thus inrolled, viz. :—

Also the Jury aforesaid present that the Inhabitants of the Town and Manner of Newport aforesaid as well within the Burrows as without always time out of Mind were used to put their Cattle into a Field there called Bury Field when they would yearly after the 3rd day of May there to stay and pasture until the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle to pay therefore to the Lord or his Farmer the sums of money undermentioned viz. :—For the Pasture of a Bullock, Cow, or Heifer 12d., for a Breeder 6d., for a Mare or Gelding 20d., for a Colt under 3 years old 16d., from the 3rd day of May until the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel and to pay for the pasture of every one of the said Cattle, from the Feast of St. Michael until the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle half the aforementioned Rates.

Also the said Jury present that the Farmer of the Lord of the said Field called Bury Field hath not used nor ought to take or put in any other Cattle in the said Field called Bury Field there to depasture between the 25th day of March and the Feast of St. Andrew but only those so put in by the Inhabitants of the

Town according to the custom of the said Town.

Also the said Jury present that the inhabitants of the said Manner always time out of Mind used to buy and have of the Lord's Farmer of the said Manner all the hay yearly grcwing cutting and coming off and in the said Meadow of Newport aforesaid called the Bury Mead and to pay therefore for every Acre 3s. (the meadow ground there being in the said Meadow belonging to a farm called Mounts only excepted) and that the Lord's Farmer ought not to put or permit any cattle to go in the said Meadow called Bury Mead after the 25th day of March until the said Meadow be mowed and all the hay carried off there.

Also the said Jury present that upon them viewing and reading an ancient Book being a survey of the said Manner taken Anno Dom 1551 in that Book it was mentioned amongst other things to be presented upon the oaths of several ancient tenants of the said Manner that for the want of sufficient Grass in the said Field called Bury Field that the inhabitants of Newport aforesaid ought to put their cattle in the pasture there called the Kickle, and that if all the hay, growing and coming off the Meadow called Bury Mead should not be sufficient to supply their necessity they were used to have hay in the Meadow called King's Holme for 2s. 8d. per acre in the Meadow called the Kickle Mead for 3s. 4d. per acre.

A true copy taken May 14, 1712.

PRESENTMENT AT COURT OF 1810.

At a Court held on 4th Octr. 1810 the Jurors presented as to the stocking of Bury field that the custom was that the Lord had common of pasture there all the year round for twelve cows and a bull and that all the inhabitants of ancient messuages in the Town of Newport Pagnell who paid Scot and Lot had from the 3rd of May O.S. to Michaelmas Day O.S. both days inclusive common of pasture for two cows or heifers or yearlings or two geldings or mares or colts being their own property a mare and sucking foal or cow and sucking calf being esteemed as one head only paying the sum of 20d. per head for horses 16d. per head for colts 12d. per head for cows 6d. per head for yearling calves and 1d. per each head branding to the person or persons seized of the freehold and inheritance of the farm called Kickells or his or their assigns and to continue the same further to St. Thomas Day Old Stile inclusive on paying half price.

The jurors further found that the custom had been abused by permitting Foreigners to stock in the name of the inhabitants paying Scot and Lot.

PROPOSED ENCLOSURE.

In 1851 there was a suggestion that Bury Field and Meadow should be enclosed, but a meeting being promptly held to protest against such steps being taken, and an influential committee being appointed to safeguard the rights and privileges of the inhabitants, the proposal dropped.

PRESENT RIGHTS.

In April, 1872, Mr. W. B. Bull prepared a careful statement of the rights of the several parties in Bury Field, Bury Meadow, and Midsummer Holme, of which the following is a copy :—

The freehold of the Field and Meadow is vested in Fredk. Jacques Myers, Esq., of Little Linford, subject to the following rights :—

BURY FIELD.

The Lady of the Manor of Newport Pagnell is entitled to stock the field, from the 14th day of May to the 23rd day of December, with six cows and one bull, and from the 23rd December to the 14th May, with twelve cows and one bull, free of charge.

The occupiers, for the time being, of certain ancient messuages, in the Parish of Newport Pagnell and Hamlet of Caldecot [named in a List which was annexed] have a right to stock two head of cattle, from the 14th day of May until the 11th day of October, on payment to the owner of the field of the following head money :— Horses, per head, 1s. 9d ; cows, per head, 1s. 1d. ; milking cows, on the field on Whit-Monday, pay 2d. extra ; and to continue their cattle in the field, up to the 23rd day of December, upon payment to the owner of half the above head money.

In April, 1846, at a Meeting of the Commoners, it was agreed that the Commoners stock with one head of cattle only, and the double stocking money be paid. This agreement was carried out, and has continued to the present time.

The owner is entitled to stock sheep, without stint, from the 10th December to the 6th April. All stock upon entering to be branded with the brand of the field (sheep excepted).

BURY MEADOW.

This meadow is closed for mowing from the 6th April until the first Monday after 6th July. The owner has a right to the grass

of Cuckoo Acre and Hook Acre. The Overseers of the Parish of Newport Pagnell to Widows' Acre, upon payment to the owner of the field of 25s., for booking and tithe money. The Ladies of the Manor of Newport Pagnell to Upper and Lower Chequer Acre and Goose Half-Acre, upon payment to the owner of 21s. The Commoners are entitled to a rood or half a rood of grass, as set out in the annexed list (such Commoners having stocked their Common) upon payment to the owner after the rate of 6s. 10d. per nominal acre. No claim can be admitted for grass in less quantities than two roods.

The acreage in Bury Meadow is a nominal acre of about 2 roods 27 poles and not a statute acre.

MIDSUMMER HOLME.

This meadow land adjoins and opens into Bury Field, and is closed for mowing on the 6th April to 6th July. The grass the property of the owner of Newport Mills.

N.B.—To entitle the Commoners to claim, the parochial rates, charged on the property in respect of which the claim is made, must be paid.

AGREEMENT AS TO A PORT FIELD KEEPER.

An Agreement made the fift day of Novemb^r Anno Dom 1662 Betwixt the freeholders and tenants which are occupiers of land in the Portfeild whose names are hereunder written one the one ꝑte And Jeffery Potter one the other ꝑte.

Imprimis wee doe mutually consent and agree for the said Jeffery Potter to be ou^r feildkeeper or heywarden and for his better incouridgment in this worke and service to give him such wages and dues as hereafter are more pticularly expressed (upon condition only) y^t constantly truely faythfully and impartially he observe ꝑforme fulfill and keepe all such dutie worke and service as by us is commanded and more fully and ꝑtickcular in this agreement hereafter expressed which one his pte and behalfe is to be done and performed.

Wee doe mutually consent and agree to give to the said Jeffery Potter one cock of Barley and one cock of Pease yearely for every yarde land any one and every one holdeth or occupieth within the Port feild and soe for a greater or lesser quantitie any one hath or holdeth and for every accor of Wheat any of us shall sow one sheafe of wheat all the grayne aforsaid both of barley pease and wheat to be paid to the same Jeffery Potter at harvest tyme

before they have carried all from of theire lande in the tylth feild by them who sowed the same. And y^t^ not with sheaves from a lande end y^t^ are halfe otes or cocks of Barley or Pease from outside lande y^t^ have bin spoyled with birds cattell or other meanes but such which is good without just cause of exception.

Alsoe we doe mutually consent and agree to give to the said Jeffery Potter for his winter wages half a peck of malt or corne and twopence in money for every yard land and soe for a greater or lesser quantitie any one hath or holdeth within the aforesaid feilde.

Alsoe wee doe mutually consent and agree to give to the said Jeffery Potter the hay y^t^ shall be growing yearely in West Mead and Dods Meade hook alsoe all the hay growing upon banlande balke ye balke at low Ouse upon a litle peece of ground in blake land upon a little peece of ground in Swansnest when the said feildes are severall and allsoe the balke of flaxon furlonge adioyning to linford feild.

Alsoe wee doe mutually consent and agree to give the said Jeffery Potter for keeping our beaste yearely upon the greene from one Lady day till they goe to grasse after the Rate of ffoure pence for a yarde land and soe ꝑportionable for a greter or lesser quantitie as any one hath or holdeth within the aforesaid fielde.

Alsoe we doe mutually consent and agree to give him after the same rate of ffour pence for a yard land and soe for a greter or lesser quantitie any one hath or holdeth with in the feilde aforesaid for keepeing our beaste yearly from Lamas till Martynmas or longer if the season serve and the Maior ꝑte of us who are ocupiers of land in the said feild shall thinke it fitt.

And for all such who are not Commoners for their Common to pay to him three halfe pence a weeke for every Cow they shall put before him to keepe from Lamas untill Micklemas and noe longer. Alsoe wee doe mutually agree y^t^ the said Jeffery Potter shall have yearely two Cowes kept in the port field as ou^r^ owne and not otherwise in furrowes and severall Ground which if he presumed to Doe then he shall have none goeing or feeding in the said port feild and upon this Condition likewise y^t^ the said two Cows are his owne and not to take in of any other mans.

Alsoe wee doe mutually command and enioyne the said Jeffery Potter at all times to impound any hogs y^t^ he shall see or find unringed though before the hogheard or upon the greene or else

wheire in the port feild or common theirunto belonging and for every hog or pig soe found unringed & Impounded to receive a penny for his paines. Alsoe we doe mutually command and enioyne the said Jeffery Potter to Impound every horse mayer Gelding or Colt y^t^ he shall find feeding upon the Commons within port feild the freeholders and tenants draught horses onely excepted.

Wee doe in like manner command and enioyne the said Jeffery Potter at all times to impound any cow steer or heifer feeding upon the Commons within the port feilde above the number of what his Common will bare after the rate of fower beaste or bulocks for a yard land soe aproportionably for a greater or lesser quantitie as any one hath or holdeth. And for every horse mayer gelding or Colt Cow steer or heifer soe feeding & impounded to receive twelve pence for his paines.

Alsoe wee mutually command and enioyne the said Jeffery Potter at all times to Impound all such sheepe y^t^ he shall find feeding upon the Commons within the port feild above the number of Thirtie for a yard land and soe proportionablie for a greter or lesser quantitie as any one hath or holdeth within the feilde aforesaid and to receive for every sheepe soe feeding and Impounded a penny for his paines.

Alsoe wee doe mutually command and enioyne the said Jeffery Potter to take speciall notice y^t^ after the tenth day of November yearely every Lambe is to goe for a sheepe. Alsoe y^t^ he cutt downe at the least twice in every yeare and carry away to his owne proper use all the Rushes y^t^ shalbe growing upon the Commons within the port feilde at such times as shalbe considered best to destroy the same.

Alsoe wee command and enioyne the said Jeffery Potter not to suffer any to dig morter gravell or banidge earth but himselfe and to take for every lode of gravell or morter he shall dig two pence a lode for the use of his Masters and two pence a loade for his digging of it and two shillings a loade for banidge earth besides his owne paines in digging it for the freeholders and Commoners and servants for their own particuler uses and for the repare of the high wayes onely excepted and that the said Jeffery Potter fill up the pits which he shall dig. Alsoe to be careful to spoyle noe more Ground than needs must.

Lastlie wee the freeholders and occupiers of land in the feildes aforesaid whose names are hereunder written doe promise for each

one of ourselves Truely and faythfully to pay the said Jeffery Potter all such dues as of right by the tenore of this agreement ought to be paid by every one of us and likewise giveing unto him full power and warrantie with all diligence to prosecute and perform all and every of the Comands and services before recited and from each one of ourselves in furthering him and for and against ourselves in hindering or in the least measure opposing him. In witness whereof wee have Interchangablie sett to our hands the day and yeare first within written.

There are about eighteen signatures, but of these only the following are legible :—Anthony Potter, Richard Perrott, Thomas Potter, Thomas Marshall, William Kingham, ... Barnes, and . . . . Chapman.

CHAPTER IV.

NEWPORT HUNDREDS.

NEWPORT Hundred comprises the three ancient hundreds of Newport called Bonestowe or Bonestou, so named, says Cole, from a vill in Lathbury Parish; Seglowe, Secklow, or Segelai, so named, also says Cole, from an hillock at the end of Bradwell Field leading into Linford grounds; and Mulsowe or Molesho.

Bonestowe Hundred contained, in 1316, Gayhurst and Little Lynford, Hanslope, Haversham and Yekele, Lathbury and Little Filgrave, Lavendon, Olney, Ravenstone, Stoke Goldington cum Ikley, Tyringham and Great Filgrave, and Weston Underwood.

Seglowe Hundred contained Bletchley, Bradwell cum Stanton, Calverton, Great Linford, Tykeford with the Marsh and Newport Pagnell (sunt una villa), Newton Longueville, Shenley cum Loughton, Simpson, Stoke Hammond, Willen cum Caldecote (una villa), Wolston, Wolverton, and Woughton on the Green.

Molesho Hundred contained Astwood, Bow Brickhill, Great Brickhill with Little Brickhill, Chicheley and Little Crawley, Clifton Reynes, Caldecote and Walton, Great Crawley and Hardmead, Emberton and Pettesho, Milton Keynes, Moulsoe cum Broughton, Sherrington, and Wavendon.

In the Hundred Rolls of 3 Edward I. (Bucks 4) is an early reference to the Hundreds of Newport, for the Jurors say "that Geoffrey le Rus, the Sheriff, after the battle of Evisham, raised the rent of the three Hundreds of Newport from 100s. to 12 marks."

On the 17th May, 36 Elizabeth, the Queen by the advice and counsel of William Baron of Burghley, Treasurer of England, and of John Fortescue, Knight and Sub-Treasurer of the Court of the Exchequer, granted and let to farm to Francis Fortescue, Esquire, all those the three Hundreds of Newporte that is to say, Bunstowe,

Mulso, and Seglow, with their members and appurtenances, in the County of Buckingham, also the office of Bailiff and Bailiwick of the same Hundreds for the term of 21 years at an annual rent of £25 3s. 3d. (?5).[1]

In the Additional MSS. (34195 fo. 18) at the British Museum is a slip of parchment in Latin referring to a half year's rent. The translation is as under:—

		l. s. d.
Buck xxx.° Oct. 1623	From the Sheriff there for rents and farms of the three hundreds of Newporte is due for the said year ended at the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel in the year of King James xxi from Francis Fortescue Knight as is wont	xij xj viij ob. Twelve pounds eleven shillings eight pence halfpenny.
	Michaelmas in the year of King James xxi.	John Brook.

By a Patent, 12 Charles I., the Hundreds were granted to Sir Francis Fortescue and John and William, his sons, for their lives.

No. 6 of the Parliamentary Surveys made in 1651 gives the following interesting particulars respecting the Hundreds:—

"A Survey of the Rents issues and profits of the three hundreds of Newport comonly called or known by the names of Bunslowe Seglowe and Mulsowe wth the Rights Members and Appurtenances thereof lyeing and being in the Countie of Buckingham late percell of the possession of Charles Stuart late King of England made and taken by vs whose names are hereunto subscribed in the month of July 1651 by Vertue of a Comicon Grounded upon an Act of the Commons of England assembled in Parliament for Sale of the p̄mises vnder the hands and Seals of ffive or more of the Trustees in the said Act named and appointed."

A Rent called Certaintye monie due from certain of the Inhabitants of the Township of Bletchley payable at Michaelmas and Lady day per annum	vj^s.^
The like Rents due from the Township of Laughton at the same terms per annum	xix^s.^
The like Rents due from the Township of Wolverton payable as aforesaid	lxvj^s.^ viij^d.^

1 Pat. 36 Eliz. p. 9, m. 12.

The like from	Stoke hamond	xxxvj$^{s.}$
„	Wooketon	xx$^{s.}$
„	Willen and Caldecott	xxv$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$
„	Sherrington	xxxiij$^{s.}$
„	Lavendon	xliij$^{s.}$ ix$^{d.}$
„	Gotehurst	xxiij^{s}
„	Luthburye	xlv$^{s.}$
„	Weston	xvj$^{s.}$
„	Filgrave	ix$^{s.}$
„	Ravenston	xvj$^{s.}$
„	Broughton	ix$^{s.}$
„	Clifton	xxiij$^{s.}$ vi$^{d.}$
„	Hurdimeade	xxiiij$^{s.}$
„	Middleton	xv$^{s.}$ iiij$^{d.}$
„	Simpton als. Seneveston	iiij$^{s.}$
„	Brayfield	xij$^{s.}$
„	Newton Blossumfeild	xix$^{s.}$ j$^{d.}$

The profitts of the Court Leetes together with a three weekes Court, ffines of the said Courts, Issues and Amerciaments of Courts, Waifes, Estreyes, deodands, ffellons Goods, Goods of ffellons, of themselves, of ffugitives, and of condemned persons, Hawking, Hunting, ffishing, ffowling, and all other profitts, and perquesites within the fforesaid Hundreds to the Royaltye thereof aperteyning wee Estimate to be worthe xiij$^{li.}$ xiij$^{s.}$ iiij$^{d.}$

" Memorandums.

" There is a Court Leete belonging to y^{e} fforesaid Hundred kept at the vsuall times.

" And allsoe a Three weekes Court wherein anie Action not exceeding Thirtie nine shillings and Eleven pence may be tryed and determined.

" W^{ch} said Courts are vsually called at Bunslowe and from thence may bee adiourned to anie place w^{t}hin the three Hundreds at will of the Steward (but are most usually kept at Newport Pannell).

" The Jurisdiction of the fforesaid Courts doth extend to aboute ffortie Townshipps or Parrishes and the Inhabitants w^{t}hin the same are to performe theyr suite and Service to ye Lord thereof, at the Courts aforesaid and for non-appearance there (vpon

Summons given out) to be Ammercied and ffined at will of ye Steward, and soe levied by distresse, if not otherwise paid by such defaulters.

"The fforesaid Rents called Certaintye monie (as before certefied) are to bee Gathered and Collected (halfe-yearely) by ye Constable, Tythingman, or Headborough of ye sevrall Townshipps where the same is soe charged and by him to bee repayed to ye Lord or ffarmer thereof w^t^hout anie allowance for his charge or paines therein.

"Where anie waifes Estreyes, ffellons Goods, or other Casualties happen to ffall they are to bee taken into ye Custodye of the fforesaid Constable Tythingman or Headborough of each Townshipp and by them to bee presented at the next Court held for the said Hundred.

"Memorand: the foresaid Courts have been held and kept, the Rents called Certainety moneys receaved wth all and singular the other profitts Casualties and Royalties belonging to the fforesaid three Hundreds of Newport by Sr. John ffortescue K^nt.^ But by what Graunt hee doth soe hould and Enioy the same wee know not having often required him to bring and produce the same to vs. And by reason of his neglect therein wee have valued the same in the possession of the Honble. the Trustees.

"An Abstracte

The some totall of the said Rents and Royalties belonging to ye said three Hundreds as aforesaid cometh vnto per ann. ... ... } xxxvij^li^ xvj^d^

This Survey was perfected the 19th day of July 1651.

Hugh Webb
ffr. Conigrave.
Will. Mar.

By an Indenture dated 19th November, 1656, and made between Thomas Coke, William Boswile, and others, Trustees nominated in an Act of Parliament for selling the fee farm rents belonging to the Commonwealth and formerly payable to the Crown, of the one part, and Samuel Richardson, of Islington, Middlesex, gentleman, of the other part, for an amount therein specified, amongst other premises the three hundreds of Newport known by the names of Bunslow, Seglowe, and Mulshoe, and the certeyntie monies referred to above were granted to Richardson and his heirs.[1]

On the Restoration the grant was doubtless set aside, for on the

1 Fee farm rents, Bundle R 2, 10.

16th day of February, 15 Charles II., the King by Letters Patent demised to Thomas Catesby, Esquire, the three hundreds of Newport for 21 years from the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, 14 Charles II., at the annual rent of £25 13s. 3d.

On the 30th of September, 17 Charles II., the King by Letters Patent,[1] in part satisfaction of the Jointure and Dower of his Queen, Catherine, assigned to Trustees (with other premises) the Hundreds of Newport (subject to Catesby's grant) in trust for the Queen for life with remainder to him and his heirs.

On 8th March, 1682,[2] "the most High and Excellent Princesse" Catherine, Queen of England, and her Trustees, by Indenture of that date, leased the three hundreds of Newport, viz., Dunstowe, Moulsoe, and Seglowe, and the appurtenances thereto belonging (including amerciaments at Easter coming to £12 4s. 3½d. and at St. Martin to £12 18s. 11½d.) to the Right Honourable Robert Earle of Ailesbury from the 29th September, 1683, for a term of 30 years at the annual rent of £25 13s. 3d., to be paid into the hands of her Majesty's "bayliff or Receiver generall of the premises for the time being to and for the use of the most Excellent Princesse Queen Catherine during her life and after her decease to the bayliff or Receiver generall of the King's most Excellent Majestie, his heires, and successors."

Lipscomb, in his History, states that the following was enclosed in a letter from J. Wishaw to Rev. Benjamin Pomfret, of Newport Pagnell, 23rd September, 1736.

"The account of Charles Dymoke the younger, Gentleman Steward and Bailiff, to the Right Honourable Countess Dowager of Aylesbury for the Hundreds of Newport, in the said County, for three years, viz., from the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, 1683, until the Feast of St. Michael, 1686.

	£	s.	d.
The yearly rent reserved upon the lease of the said Hundreds, made from the Queen Dowager, as appears by the said lease, is	25	13	3
But there is an abatement by order of her Majesty's Counsel, as appears by the said Order, of the yearly sum of[3]		19	11
Then the yearly rent payable to her Majesty was	24	13	4

1 Pat. Rot., 17 Charles II., p. 9, m. 1. 2 Old MS. copy of Lease.

3 Willis says that there was a grant in 24 Charles II. (31 July, p. 9) of small quit rents out of towns in Newport Hundreds, not named, of 19s. 11d

	£	s.	d.
The rent yearly received of the several towns within the said Hundreds, and paid by the Constables for the time being, as appears by the particulars hereunto annexed, is	21	15	10

Which said sum of £21 15s. 10d. deducted out of the aforesaid yearly rent of £24 13s. 4d. there remains then £2 17s. 6d. which was yearly reserved to her Majesty in respect of the casual profits, viz., Deodands and Goods of Felons, &c., happening within the said Hundreds.

The said yearly rent of £21 15s. 10d. received of the several Constables, as aforesaid, for 3 years, is ...	65	7	6
Received of the Town of Milton for the last year only, above the usual rent of 15s. 4d. per annum, the sum of		3	8
Received of Sir Robert Throckmorton, of Weston, for a deodand upon the death of John Gilloway ...	13	10	0
Received in all ...	79	1	2
Paid to the Receiver for three years' rent ...	74	0	0
And for the acquittances		6	0
And for alienation money upon the death of the late Earl of Aylesbury		3	4
Paid in all ...	74	9	4
Remained due then	4	11	10
Unpaid by the Town of Ravenstone for all the three years at 16s. per annum	2	8	0
Remains due then	2	3	10

From this account it is apparent that the benefit of the Lease had on the death of the Earl passed as early as 1686 to the Countess Dowager of Aylesbury.

Lipscomb further states that the fee farm rents issuing out of the villages in the Hundreds were assured to Thomas Duke of Leeds by bargain and sale dated 6th December, 1710, and that on 10th July, 10 George II., the three Hundreds, with the rents thereof were granted to him for 31 years, at the yearly rent of 40s., the Court having in the interim been discontinued for some years.

The Petty Sessions for the three Hundreds were held at Newport Pagnell.

The three Hundreds during the present century have been the property of the Wrights, Wyndhams and their heirs, Lord Carrington (about 1859), and Mr. Carlile, the present owner, who purchased the Hundreds, with the Gayhurst Estate, &c., in 1881.

In the conditions of sale of 1881 the Manor is simply referred to as "the Manor of the Three Hunderds of Newport . . . with the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging," and it is stipulated that the Vendors shall not "be bound to point out the boundaries of the Manors or to furnish any evidence of the existence or of any rights or immunities of the Manors."

As a matter of fact it is believed that all rights have now lapsed.

CHAPTER V.

THE LACE TRADE.[1]

As early as 1611, as mentioned elsewhere, the Bishop, on his Visitation, found it requisite to deal with the cases of Newport men who "continuallie travelled to sell bone lace on ye Sabaoth day," and the Rev. Thomas Cox, writing of Newport Pagnell as early as 1700, says, "This Town is a sort of Staple for Bonelace, of which more is thought to be made here than in any Town of England."

Hassell, too, in his "Tour of the Grand Junction Canal," published in 1819, says:—"The labouring classes are chiefly supported by lace making. There is scarcely a door of a cottage to be seen during summer but what is occupied by some industrious pale-faced lass. It has been said that more lace is manufactured in this town and its neighbourhood than in all the rest of England."

The fact that extensive lace making was for long carried on, however, is well known.

The lace made during the nineteenth century all came under the denomination of pillow lace, and was variously called Point Ground, Thread Lace, and Maltese Lace.

The prices realised for it varied according to the width, quality, and demand, and ranged on an average from about 3d. to 7s. 6d. per yard. It is, however, difficult to estimate the usual earnings of individual workers, as most of them were more or less engaged in other occupations, and information given on the head by workers was usually given without reference to this fact, and so not reliable. The value of the lace made, however, in the Lace District was large, and probably ranged from £100,000 to £120,000 annually.

The trade was for many years variable, and subject to continued

1 This Chapter has been written and kindly supplied by Mr. William Ayers, for many years a well-known lace merchant residing at Newport Pagnell.

depressions from causes which more or less affected all trades, and which did not operate permanently, and also to declines from causes which produced more or less fatal results.

The first marked period of decline may be ascribed to the introduction of machine-made lace, which became a factor in the trade as early as about 1835. The second period of decline may be traced to the effects of "Free Trade," which resulted in foreign countries sending their products here duty free, and at the same raising their own duties to such an extent as to exclude English products from their markets.

A change in the nature of the lace occurred at various periods. For a time what was called "Norman Lace," made of worsted in various colours, had a great run of prosperity. The demand was very large, but confined almost entirely to the United States, to which an enormous quantity made in the neighbourhood was shipped. The trade, however, dropped very suddenly and never recovered.

In the meantime the old Point Ground Lace still continued in request with more or less fluctuation till about 1851 (the year of the first Great Exhibition). At this time a marked change occurred in the nature of the article. From a very close fine make appeared a fabric the very opposite in design, work, and material, and which, to the uninitiated eye, appeared at first far from elegant, but it soon emerged, as if by magic, into a "Thing of beauty." It was called "Maltese lace" from its having been first produced in Malta.

After its first introduction into this country it was greatly improved both in design and quality, and it had, too, the advantage of being beyond the reach of machine imitation. Owing to these intrinsic merits, as well as to the thorough change in its nature, an enormous trade was done in it. This was, too, for a time, still further enhanced by a novel variation in style called "Plait Lace," the market for which, however, was almost entirely confined to America.

The two varieties of the Maltese lace combined to bring about, for many years, an unprecedented revival of the lace trade, and before the demand for the plaited description ceased, a large trade sprang up in Collars, Coiffeurs, Handkerchief borders, Veils, &c., in Black Silk Maltese, and Point Ground Laces.

The last change in the nature of the article took place about 1875 when "Yac Lace" made its appearance. It was so called from

the material being made from a species of goat's hair. This became a very large and important branch of the trade, especially when, in addition to white and black, the lace was produced in colours to match every shade of dress. In a short time, however, the various colours ceased to be fashionable, black alone excepted.

Though the Yac lace was virtually free from machine competition, it nevertheless languished and eventually expired, partly from the effect of foreign importations which deluged the markets with so-called cheap, but really inferior, goods, which even included imitations of our own patterns.

The Yac trade being virtually destroyed, the Maltese proper soon shared the same fate, not only from foreign competition but from the fact that machine lace had been so improved in design and manufacture, and that there was such a great difference in price.

It became evident that the final extinction of the trade was at hand, and the remaining few years of its existence were only remarkable for the steady and uniform decline not only in the demand for but in the quality of the lace made.

The trade proper practically became extinct about 1884, but of late years an Association, termed the "North Bucks Lace Association," and of which Mrs. Carlile is the president, has been formed for the purpose of again promoting, if possible, an interest and trade in local hand-made lace.

CHAPTER VI.

AN OLD BAILIFF'S ACCOUNT.[1]

NEWPORT Paynell. The Compotus of Edmund Holte[2] bailiff there for the year ended at the feast of Michael in the 19th year of King Edward IV.

Rents of Assize.

The same renders account of cxiiij$^{s.}$ iiij$^{d.}$ ob. received for rents of assize in Newport Paynell as well of the free as divers customary tenants there payable at the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary and St. Michael equally per annum as appears by the rentals with the remaining account And of xiiij$^{li.}$ v$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$ ob. of rents and farms in Tikeford there paying at the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary and St. Michael equally per annum for the said rental And of xv$^{li.}$ vij$^{s.}$ v$^{d.}$ of rents and farms in the Mershe there at the same terms per annum for the said rents And of xj$^{li.}$ xij$^{s.}$ of rents and farms in Little Lynford there at the same terms per annum for the said rent And of xlij$^{s.}$ ob. of rents recovered on the Compotus of the three preceding years as by examination of the said rental by the Auditor in the said Compotus there at the same terms per annum.

Total xlix$^{li.}$ xviij$^{d.}$ ob.

The farm of the tolls of the borough

And of lx$^{s.}$ of farm of the tolls of the borough there this year as appears and is witnessed by the Court Rolls this year Total lx$^{s.}$

The farm of divers lands

And of xx$^{li.}$ of rent of divers lands there called Buryfeld this year the half of divers tenants as appears from the said Rental on this account exhibited and examined And of ix$^{li.}$ vj$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$ of rent of divers lands there in Little Lynford half this year of divers tenants as appears by the said rental. Total xxix$^{li.}$ vj$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$

1 Ministers Accounts, Bundle 637, 10346.

2 The dismissal of Holte in 1 Edward V. is referred to on p. 46 ante.

The farm of the mill

And of ix$^{li.}$ rent of the mill and of the fishery there this year as demised to Robert Milleward. Total ix$^{li.}$

Perquisites of the Court

And of xxvj$^{s.}$ ij$^{d.}$ received from perquisites of one view of frank pledge and xxx courts there held this year within the Borough as appears by the Rolls of the same And of vj$^{s.}$ j$^{d.}$ ob. of perquisites of one view of frank pledge held at Tikeford mershe and Calcote besides iiij$^{s.}$ of certainty money at Calcote previously imposed. And of iij$^{s.}$ v$^{d.}$ of perquisites from one view of frank pledge held at Chicheley Crawley parva Astewode and Eyckeney this year besides vij$^{s.}$ of certainty money at Chicheley ix$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$ at Crawley parva x$^{s.}$ at Astewode and v$^{s.}$ besides at Ekeney previously charged beyond the fixed rental And of viij$^{s.}$ v$^{d.}$ of perquisites of one view of frank pledge held at Emberton besides xiij$^{s.}$ iiij$^{d.}$ the Sheriffs fine And of xvj$^{d.}$ of perquisites of one view of frank pledge held at Lynford parva this year And of ij$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$ of perquisites of one view of frankpledge held at Northemersheton this year besides xx$^{s.}$ j$^{d.}$ of certainty money And of xxj$^{s.}$ v$^{d.}$ of perquisites of xvij courts there held in the market place of Newport Paynell this year. Total lxix$^{s.}$ vj$^{d.}$ ob.

Total tolls received $\overset{xx}{\text{iiij}}$ xiij$^{li.}$ xvij$^{s.}$ ix$^{d.}$

Rents resolute

The same accounts in rents resolute to Eleanor Lady de Stafford of a certain rent issuing to her this year as in the preceding year vj$^{li.}$ xiij$^{s.}$ iiij$^{d.}$ And in a rent resolute to Ralph Hostynges of a certain rent to him issuing this year as in the preceding year ij$^{s.}$ Total vj$^{li.}$ xv$^{s.}$ iiij$^{d.}$

Rents owing

And by default rent of a tenement lately in the tenure of John Shirewood which used to render viij$^{s.}$ per annum but lately was reduced to the said John by vij$^{s.}$ and so there is a default of xij$^{d.}$ And by default of rent of a virgate of land and two acres of a close lately in the tenure of John Tarry previously charged at xviij$^{s.}$ from whence issued nothing this year and so there is a default of xviij$^{s.}$ And by default of rent of a tenement in Little Linford lately in the tenure of Thomas Hoggeson previously charged at xij$^{d.}$ from whence issued nothing this year and so there is a default of xij$^{d.}$ And by default of a tenement and a certain acre of land lately in the tenure of John Gafferey who used to render xvij$^{s.}$ per

annum whence nothing has issued this year as appears in the Court Rolls this year and so there is a default of xvij$^{s.}$ Total xxxvij$^{s.}$

Fees and wages

And in fees of Robert Pemberton Steward of the Court there on account of his office for the year vj$^{li.}$ vj$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$ And in fees of Edmund Holt bailiff there at iij$^{d.}$ per day to him by the Lord the King granted for the term of his life by letters patent of the said Lord the King as in the said letters patent more fully appears iiij$^{li.}$ xj$^{s.}$ And in fees of the said Edmund of the swine of the park of Tikeford at iij$^{d.}$ per day to him by the Lord the King granted for the term of his life by letters patent of the said Lord the King as in the said letters more fully appears iiij$^{li.}$ xj$^{s.}$ And in fees to the keeper of the ducks there yearly vj$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$ And in fees to the bailiff of the market there xiij$^{s.}$ iiij$^{d.}$ yearly. Total xvj$^{li.}$ viij$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$

Steward's expenses

And in expenses of the Steward of the Court at the aforesaid Courts held this year with expenses of the Tenants and others there being xlviij$^{s.}$ v$^{d.}$ Total xlviij$^{s.}$ v$^{d.}$

Cost of the park enclosure

And payments of John Hobbes and William Eger labourers for enclosing fifty perches of new hedge round the park there receiving v$^{d.}$ for each perch xx$^{s.}$ x$^{d.}$ And paid to the said John and William for the pleshing of nine score perches of hedge round the said park on the eastern part of the said park receiving i$^{d.}$ per perch xv$^{s.}$ And of one parcel of hay bought for the sustenance of the deer in the winter viz vi waggon loads with the carriage of the same xx$^{s.}$ Total lv$^{s.}$ x$^{d.}$

Repairs of the mills

And in divers repairs this year done to the mill there as well in wood work and masonry as in various operations in the work upon the groundwork of the said mill also in buying burnt lime likewise with the purchase of timber with the carriage of the same and in the purchase of planks and nails and likewise in buying a pair of millstones and also in divers other necessaries to the same bought as by the particulars in the bills upon this compotus appears and is filed among the memoranda of this year xvj$^{li.}$ iiij$^{s.}$

Total xvj$^{li.}$ iiij$^{s.}$

Tax paid

And in tax paid to John Luterhyngton Tax Receiver of the

lordship there of the charge on the said Compotus for the part issuing from his office of this year $x^{li.}$ $xiij^{s.}$ $iiij^{d.}$

Total $x^{li.}$ $xiij^{s.}$ $iiij^{d.}$

Total stated and paid $lvij^{li.}$ $ij^{s.}$ $vij^{d.}$ and owing $xxxvj^{li.}$ $xv^{s.}$ $ij^{d.}$ of which allowances on the said account are $v^{s.}$ for his expenses coming to Warwick to deliver his Compotus there And to the same $l^{s.}$ $vj^{d.}$ on account of his balance due to himself on his Compotus of his office for the year last past as appears on the foot of the said Compotus And he owed $xxxiij^{li.}$ $xix^{s.}$ $viij^{d.}$ which he paid and the receipt was completed without a bill on the Compotus before the Auditor. And thus he is freed.

CHAPTER VII.

THE NEWPORT PRESS.

A NEWPORT bookseller, one Mathias Cowley, is referred to as early as 1656 as selling Bunyan's first book, but Benjamin Leverett, who flourished in the latter half of the eighteenth century, is the first known printer.

Leverett's name occurs at the foot of some old race and theatrical bills and also of the prospectus of Christopher Towle, a school and dance master, who attended at Newport once a week and who is referred to in a letter written by Cowper to Lady Hesketh on 3rd June, 1788. The race bills referred to are dated 1781 and 1782, and the earlier bears the following imprint:— "Newport Pagnell, printed by B. Leverett, where every Article in the printing Business, is reasonably performed." The other imprint refers to the "Old Printing Office, Newport."

A little volume entitled "Hymns selected from various Authors, chiefly intended for Family Devotion," also bears the imprint "Newport Pagnell, printed by B. Leverett." It is not dated. A bill with reference to a theatrical performance in the George Yard, on 16th July, 1781, and another as to a performance in the Saracen's Head Yard, in 1819, were also printed by him.

A small volume of "Poems translated from the French of Madame de la Mothe Guion, by the late William Cowper, Esq.," bears the imprint "Newport Pagnel, printed and sold by J. Wakefield . . 1801." At the end of the book, too, are the words, "Printed by J. Wakefield, High Street, Newport Pagnel."

He also issued in 1800 a sermon by Samuel Greatheed occasioned by Cowper's decease, which although the imprint runs "Printed and sold by J. Wakefield," had, says Mr. Gough in his "Bibliotheca Buckinghamiensis," at the extreme bottom of the title page so that it would be cut off in binding, the words "Printed by M. Vint, Ave-Maria Lane, London."

A volume of "Discourses on the Malevolent Sentiments," by John Hey, D.D., 1801, also bears Wakefield's imprint.

"An Historical and Topographical Account of the Town of Woburn, its Abbey and Vicinity," bears the imprint of "S. Manning printer, Newport, 1818." A report printed by him, too, bears the date 1823, while a post octavo volume of "Poems on Various Subjects and on Several Occasions by the late Mr. William Lamb Robe: edited by his son The Rev. Francis W. Robe, A.M. of Lincoln College Oxford," were "printed for the Editor by S. Manning," in 1824. He, however, in December, 1825, "having for a period of nine years been honored with the patronage of the Gentry, Clergy, and Inhabitants of Newport Pagnell and its neighbourhood," disposed of "his concern" to Mr. William Rose, of Leighton. The imprint of "William Rose, High Street, Newport Pagnell," occurs in 1837.

Cooper Tite appears as the printer and publisher of "The History of Newport Pagnell," by Joseph Staines, in 1842, but he died prior to 1853, as the business was then carried on by his executors in High Street.

The next name which occurs is probably that of Edward Henry Croydon, who commenced the publication of "Croydon's Weekly Standard Newspaper," on 1st January, 1859. The advent of this paper was thus quaintly announced, "The New Year is coming and so is Croydon's 'Weekly Standard' Newspaper, that as soon as the first diffuses its light the second will diffuse its knowledge; when the first beams with brightness the second will teem with intelligence; that as one enlightens the way the other will enlighten the mind. E. H. Croydon, proprietor. Offices, St. John Street, Newport Pagnell."

This paper, the title of which some years since was changed to "The Bucks Standard," is still carried on, its present proprietor being Mr. James Line.

Then there is John Milbourne, who, on 4th March, 1865, published the first number of "The Newport Pagnell Chronicle," a paper which did not survive the year of its birth.

In 1867, however, another local paper "The Newport Pagnell Gazette," which was founded and for many years conducted by Joseph Simpson, took its place. Mr. Alfred Simpson, his son, is the present proprietor and publisher.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

THE OLD NATIONAL SCHOOL.

ON 18th July, 1748, the feoffees of the Town Lands purchased for £90 certain premises by the River Lovatt which were assured to them by the description of all that messuage or tenement then divided into six several tenements upon trust, so it is said in the Report of 1833, to be made use of either as an infirmary or place of lodging for the poor sick inhabitants of the parish of Newport Pagnell in the time of the smallpox or other contagious distemper, but it does not appear that the buildings were so used.

Eventually the cottages, having become very ruinous, were pulled down in 1816, when a National School, with the consent of the feoffees, was built by subscription upon their site, the same being let for a nominal rent of £5, which was never paid nor demanded.

At a Vestry Meeting held in February, 1859, the surviving Trustees of the premises were authorised to convey them under 4 and 5 Victoria to the Vicar and Churchwardens, for the purposes of the Act.

A draft of the proposed conveyances was approved at a meeting of subscribers held in August of the same year, and a Committee was appointed to obtain estimates for altering the building to make a portion of it available for girls, and for putting an iron palisading round the wall adjoining the river.

On the opening of the Board Schools, as already mentioned on page 25, the buildings ceased to be used as an elementary school.

ABBEY END OR PRIORY STREET SCHOOL.

In the summer of 1866 it was found impossible to properly educate children under six years of age at the Old National School, and subscriptions were thereupon collected for the erection of an Infants' School to accommodate at least seventy children, in Abbey End, on part of a small close which Rev. Arthur L. C. Heigham, by permission of the Bishop, gave as a site.

This school has been enlarged, and now accommodates a hundred children. It is still in use, but, so far as the day school is concerned, is under the control of the School Board.

MARSH END SCHOOL.

In 1869 another Infants' School was opened in Marsh End, and in 1880 transferred to the Primitive Methodist Chapel, which was disused, and had been purchased for the purpose.

The building is not now used as a day school.

BRITISH SCHOOLS.

As mentioned elsewhere, the first British School in High Street was erected in 1811 on the site of the present Town Hall.

On 10th April, 1845, the premises were assured upon trust partly for the education of boys according to the system of the British and Foreign School Society, and partly for such purposes as the majority of the Committee of Subscribers should direct, and at the same time it was much added to and improved, a large room for meetings on the first storey being the principal addition. The enlarged building was opened on 16th September, 1845, by Mr. Dun, the Secretary to the British and Foreign School Society. The cost of the additions was about £450, and there were then about 130 boys on the list.[1]

In 1837 a school in Union Street, used for girls and infants, was arranged for and the premises assured, on 8th December,

1 Osborn MSS.

1837, upon trust for the education of the labouring classes residing in Newport Pagnell and its neighbourhood, upon the principles of the above-named School Society.

The use of both buildings for schools was discontinued on the opening of the Board Schools, and on 6th April, 1898, a scheme was approved by the Charity Commissioners whereby the charities were thenceforth to be known as the "British School Educational Charity," the premises were vested in the official trustee, and it was directed that the charity should be managed by three representative and three co-optative trustees. The scheme went on to provide that on the expiration of the terms of office of certain named trustees future representative trustees should be appointed by the School Board and the co-optative trustees by the other trustees subject to the Commissioners' approval, and that the premises if not sold should be let, the income being applied in the maintenance of exhibitions of a yearly value of £14, tenable at a Training College in connection with the British and Foreign School Society, to be awarded to pupil teachers resident in Newport Pagnell who had completed their engagement in public elementary schools in the parish, or in exhibitions of a like amount to deserving resident children.

The old British School premises have as a result of this scheme been leased to the Newport Pagnell Town Hall Company Limited, for ninety-nine years from 24th June, 1899, at an annual rent of £10, and having been much altered and added to, are now known as the Town Hall, and were first used as such in October, 1899, while the Union Street premises have been leased for a like term from 25th March, 1899, at an annual rent of £4, and have been converted into a house by the lessees.

CHRISTIE'S SCHOOL HOUSE

is referred to elsewhere.

CHAPTER IX.

TOKENS AND MEDALS.

TRADESMEN'S TOKENS.

THERE were some fifteen tokens issued by Newport tradesmen during the latter half of the seventeenth century, and the following is the list of the same :—

O. + WILLIAM BREDEN—Pair of Scales.
R. + OF NEWPORT PAGNELL + B + WE +

O. + IOHN BURGIS. 1668—Pair of Scales.
R. + IN • NEWPORT • PAGNELL • B • IS •

O. IOSIAS CHAPMAN—Pair of Scales.
R. + IN NEWPORT • PAGNELL I : C

O. + IOHN . CHILD . OF + —Pair of Scales.
R. + NEWPORT • PAGNELL + C + I + R

O. John Child. his. halfe. penny.
R. IN . NEWPORT . 1667 A roll of tobacco and two pipes.
A leaden token.

O. EDWARD . COOPER . OF—Pair of Scales C. E. F.
R. NEWPORT . PAGNELL HIS HALFE PENNY.

O. + EDWARD . COOPER . OF—The Grocers Arms.
R. + NEWPORT . PANNELL . E C 1667
A variety reads Newport Paynell.

O. + IOHN • DAVIS • OF—Drapers Arms.
R. NEWPORT • PAGNELL + D + II

O. + ROB : HOOTON • of • H • R E
R. NEWPORT PANNELL • H • R E

O. + SAMUELL • LAMBERT • —Pair of Scales.
R. + IN • NEWPORT PAGNELL—HIS HALFE PENNY . . .

O. + IOHN • NORMAN • IN—Pair of Scales.
R. + NEWPORT • PAGNELL + I . N +

O. + IOHN . NORMAN—The Grocers Arms.
R. + IN . NEWPORT . N . I E

O. + THOMAS . PERROTT—A heart.
R. • IN : NEWPORT PANNELL + P + T E

O. + IAM : SMITH • SOPE BOYLR + —Man and horse.
R. + IN • ST. IOHN • STREET + . S . I M

O. + NEWPORT . PANNELL . S . W . F .
R. + BVCKINGHAMSHIRE . —Pair of scales.

Boyne[1] does not give either Child's leaden token or the Paynell variety of Cooper's, nor does he mention the token of Robert Hooton nor the second named one of Norman. They are all, however, mentioned in a list published by Mr. O. Ratcliff, of Olney, and one of Hooton's tokens is in the possession of the writer.

All the tokens except the three bearing the words halfpenny are farthing ones.

MEDALS.

Medals have been used and distributed at various times, but it is believed that none have ever been specially struck for Newport use.

1 Tokens of the Seventeenth Century. Wm. Boyne. 1858.

CHAPTER X.

Two Old Wills.

THE following Wills are given, as being illustrative, not only of the old time style of will making, but also of the custom of making provision for due burial and of the dues and rights in connection therewith. They contain, moreover, several interesting bequests to local objects.

William Fletcher's Will.

In the name of God Amen the thirteenth day of the month of December in the year of Our Lord 1496 I William Fletcher of Newport Paynell in the County of Buckingham chaplain of the chantry there being sound in mind ordain my will in this manner In the first place I bequeath my soul to Almighty God to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the Saints my body to be buried in the church or cemetery of the church aforesaid Item I bequeath in the name of my principal that which the law requires Item I give to the mother church of Lincoln iiij$^{d.}$ Item I give to the high altar of Newport aforesaid a corporale with a common chest and a linen cover for the same altar Item to the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary at which I have been used to celebrate a corporale and a cover Item I give to the sustentation of the choir there a pair of organs a book containing antiphons and an ordinal Item I give to the fabric of the church of Newport aforesaid vj$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$ Item I give to the Fraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary there xiij$^{s.}$ iiij$^{d.}$ to be paid by Robert Bowyer his heirs or executors on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in two succeeding years by equal portions Item to the two bridges of the same town namely North brigge and Tykford brigge vj$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$ Item I wish and it is my last wish that Joan Eurle shall have and enjoy to her and her heirs and assigns for ever my tenement situate in Newport aforesaid in the street between the high cross and the forge formerly of Richard Eurle for a certain sum of

money paid me beforehand for four pounds of legal money of England to be paid to me my executors or assigns The residue of my goods not above bequeathed I give and bequeath to Richard Cropthorne John Geffs and John Eurle whom I ordain make and constitute my executors so that they may dispose of all the aforesaid goods for the greater safety of my soul as they will answer on the Great Judgment Day before the tribunal of the Great Judge. Witnesses Thomas Vrmeston, Vicar there, Robert Bowyer and Thomas Erle with others.

JOAN KYRNELL'S WILL.

In the name of God Amen. The secunde day of the monathe of January in the yere of our lorde MV$^{C.}$ and sixe I Johane Kyrnell of Newporte Pannell in the dioc̃ of Lincoln within the countie of Bucks Widowe make my testament in this wise ffirste I bequethe my soule to allmighty God and to his blessed moder our lady Saynt Mary and to all the holy company of heaven And my body to be buried in the churche of the blessed apostells Peter and Paule in Newport Pannell nigh my husband Also I bequeth for my principall that right will requyre Also I bequeth to the Convent of the house of Tyckford my secund kowe Also I give and bequethe all my land that I have oute of Newport Panell to Margaret Yppeswell my daughter And also I give and bequethe to my iij doughters Elisabeth Betrice and Margaret all the lands that I have in Newport Panell after the forme of my husband's testament Also I give and bequethe to yche of my iij doughters aforenamed iij pair of flaxen shetes Also I will my best pece and my best girdill and a dozen of siluer spones and all my beestes to haue a preest for to sing for the soule of John Kyrnell and me and all cristen soules in the Church of Newport Panell as ferr as the money will stretche Also I bequeth unto the vicar of Newport Panell iij$^{s.}$ iiij$^{d.}$ Item to Sr Edward xx$^{d.}$ It̃ to Sr Henry xx$^{d.}$ It̃ to Margaret Yppeswell my doughter my gold ryng w^{t} the fyve woundes And to Betrice my doughter my wedding ryng And to Margaret my doughter ij gold rynges and a brode maser And to my doughter Beatrice the maser w^{t} the bere And thet maser that is called a Notte And to Jone Yppeswell my litell maser And to doughter Elizabeth my long girdell And also I will my best kyrtell be sold and the money of the same to be given to poore people for the helthe of my soule and Alice Jeffis soule and all

cristen soules Also I will that Henry Yppeswell shall give to my doughters Elizabeth and Betrice within the space of ij yeres after my decesse to yche of theym v markes And I bequeth unto the moder church of Lincoln viij$^{d.}$ Ĩt. I bequeth to all soulen light half a quarter of barley Item I bequeth to the ij brigges of Newport Panell a quarter of barly And my best couerlett unto the sepulcre Also I bequeth all my brasse unto the children of my ij doughters aforenamed Ĩt. I bequeth unto my doughter Beetrice a fetherbed And to iche of my godchildren a pewtre disshe The residue of all my goodes I give and bequeth to Henry Ippeswell the whiche Henry I ordeyne sett and make myn executo^{r} thet he may dispose my goodes for the mooste helth of my soule as he shalbe best advised thereyn Thees beyng witness Sir John Blott vicar of Newport Panell Sr Edward Champ preeste and Thomas Coste with others.

The Will was proved at Lambeth on 3rd December, 1506.

PART VII.

ENDOWMENTS AND CHARITIES.

CHAPTER I.

THE HOSPITAL OF SS. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND EVANGELIST, NOW KNOWN AS QUEEN ANN'S.

THE first references to be found relating to this foundation which may be relied on are probably those contained in the Inquisition taken in 1245, in which, amongst the names of the burgesses who held of Roger de Somery, occur the following:—

"The Master of the Hospital of Saint John of Newport Paynel with his tenants holds a burgage of the said Lord rendering 2s. per annum and doing to that extent suit at the Portmote and likewise view of frankpledge on the Wednesday after the week of Pentecost.

"The Lord of the Hospital of Saint John the Baptist in Newport holds with his tenants of the said Lord by the like services."

A little earlier there is a reference in Madox's Formulare Anglicanum (p. 424) to the will of one William de Paveli, who bequeathed to St. James of Northampton 5s., to St. Leonard of Northampton 2s., to the New Hospital of Newport 12d., and to St. Margaret of the same place 12d.

The reference to the New Hospital is intelligible on the assump-

tion that it was just founded, but that of St. Margaret cannot be followed.

Speed, too, has it that John de Peynton was the founder of a Hospital at Newport Pagnell dedicated to St. Leonard, but this is contradicted by Tanner, who says the Hospital referred to by Speed is that of Newport, Essex.

Tanner, moreover, says there was a house of lepers in the town, which had Edward I.'s licence[1] to ask alms, but this statement is explained by the finding of a Commission held on the 7th October 5 James I., which commences thus:—

"Imprimis We do present that there is in Newport Pagnell nere the bridge ther called Tyckford bridge a scite or place whereupon the house or hospitall called the hospitall of St. John Baptist was scituate founded in or before King Henry the thirde and that in the said hospitall from the time of the foundacion until the thirde yeare of the reign of King Edward the first did consist a body corporate incorporated knowne by the name or names of the Master brothers and sisters of the Hospital of St. John Baptist in Newport Pagnel which brothers and sisters were poore people abydinge in the said hospitall and that there were divers lands tenements libertyes benefitts and hereditaments belonging to the said hospital wherewith and by the revenues whereof the said Master and poore people were kept mayntayned and relieved from tyme to tyme And that after the foundacions of the said hospitall divers grauntes were made of landes libertyes and other benyfites to and for the mayntenance of the said hospitall all which graunts were made to the maister brothers and sisters of the same hospitall joyntly and not otherwise.

"And wee doe fynde and present that in the thirde yeare of the reign of Kinge Edward the first the said Kinge Edward graunted his letters of protexion[2] to the maister brothers and sisters of the same hospitall calling it a house of Leporous people with this clause inserted in the sayd protexion in these wordes following viz.:—'We entreat moreover that if the aforesaid lepers or their messengers shall come to you begging that you of your charity will as the Lord hath given goods unto you be willing to contribute from them for their sustenance wherefor you shall receive signal recompence from God and our thanks.'"

1 Pat. Rolls 3 Edward 1, m. 22. 2 For five years apparently.

In the Patent Rolls of 8 Edward 1 (m. 9. d.) is another reference to the Hospital in the shape of an appointment of Robert Fulconis and Geoffrey de Leuknore to take the assise of novel disseisin arraigned by the master of the Hospital of Saint John of Newport Paynel against Roger de Somery and Martin le Clerk touching common of pasture in Newport Paynel.

In the Dodsworth MSS. at the Bodleian Library (c. ii., f. 135) is a copy of a deed dated 1316, which purports to be the "Deede of foundacion," but there is nothing to show where the original is. It is, however, interesting, and runs thus :—

"Be it universally known that I John de Somery Lord of Newporte Paynel have given . . . . to God and the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist and to Brother Richard de Wylus prior of the Hospital of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist of Newporte aforesaid and to his co-brothers serving God therein under the Order of St. Augustine and to their successors for the health of my soul and the souls of Lucia my wife and of my ancestors All that Hospital which is situate at the head of the South bridge of the same town with the houses gardens and all other appurtenances belonging within the metes and bounds of the said Hospital To have and to hold to the same Richard and the brethren and their successors in frankalmoign in peace and absolutely freed for ever from all burdens and secular services. So nevertheless that when the aforesaid prior of the aforesaid Hospitall shall in the way of all flesh pass away at the appointed time that those who are brethren of the place shall choose a prior as ruler to be forthwith presented to me or my heirs as patron." The deed was dated at Mere on the 16th Kal. June, in the ninth year of the reign of King Edward the son of King Edward.

In the Patent Rolls of 3 Edward III. there is protection granted, with clause "nolumus" for one year, to "The Master brethren and sisters of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist of Newport Paynel."

In 1332, too, protection was granted for one year in England, Ireland, and Wales for the Master of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist in the town of Newport Paynel by the bridge and his attorneys collecting alms in the churches once in the year by virtue of an Indulgence from the Pope.[1]

1 Cal. Pat. Rolls, 6 Edward III., pt. 2, m. 9.

"John de P . . . .[1] of Caldecot nighe Newport Pagnell by his deede bearing date on the Frydaye in the Eve of the Nativity of our Lord in the yeare of the reign of Kinge Edward the third after the Conquest the fower and twentyeth did give and graunt to Sir William Draper chappelyne maister of the Hospital of St. John Baptist of Newport and his successors the comon for sixe greate beastes and fower score sheep in the feeldes meadowes and common of Caldecot together with free chase and . . . . to the aforesaid Sir William and his successors freely and peaceably for ever as by the same deede under seale at large appeareth."[2]

Robert Larkyn, of London, Draper, by his Will, dated 20th September, 1444, and proved on 20th November following, after requesting to be "beryed in cristen beryelles in the churche or in the churchyarde of saint Peter of Newport Paynell if so be that he decesed there," bequeaths "to the Maister of the hospitall of Saint Johnes of the same towne vj$^{s.}$ viij ·"

About the end of the reign of Henry VIII. occurs the following interesting entry in the Chantry Certificates :—

"Newporte Pannell. Thospitalle or free Chappell of S. John the baptiste & St. John the Euangeliste in Newporte aforesaid.

"To what intente this hospitalle was fownded itt is not as yett knowne because the fowndacyone y^{e}of remaneth w^{t} S$^{r.}$ Thomas Thornam M$^{r.}$ there wch is not Residente.

"The said Hospitalle is Scituate w^{t}in the said towne of Newporte whiche is a m^{e}kett towne & thoroughfaire."

"The said hospitall is of therly value of vj$^{li.}$ x$^{s.}$ whereof.

In Rente resolute to the bayliff of Newporte ij$^{d.}$ & to the chefe lorde of Calcote iiij$^{d.}$ in thole ... } vj$^{d.}$

And so Remayneth for y^{e} priests Salarye w^{t} xix$^{d.}$ ob̄ for an obite yearlye to be kepte ... } vj$^{li.}$ ix$^{s.}$ vj$^{d.}$

"The Juells of the said hospitall y^{t} is to saye a chalice p̄cell guilte weinge xij$^{oz.}$ at iij.s̄ iiij$^{d.}$ the once xl$^{s.}$ a vestm^{t} of Sattan iiij s̄. Remayninge w^{t} Thomas Baker and Robrte Annesley.

All the lands & Teñts belongeinge to this hospitall be letten to ferme to Thomas Baker Gent. yeldinge & payeinge by the yeare as appereth by an Indenture vj^{li}. vj s̄. viij^{d}.

1 Name illegible. If Peynton, it is interesting to note Speed's statement already referred to.

2 Chancery Petty Bag. Chancery Decrees, pt. 1, No. 10, 43 Elizabeth.

Another Chantry Certificate, about 2 Edward VI. (Bucks Cert. 5 No. 29) contains the following:—

"Memorand that the Churchwardens of Newporte aforesaid hath presented that w^th^in the said towne there is an hospitall beinge vacant the house downe and the Chappell sore indecaie and in hospitalitie kept there for the relyff of the poor people by the space of this xvj. yeres. And there belongeth vnto the said hospitall one littel Bell of xxx^li.^ weight one Chalice one Masse Boke one corporas a coople of crewetts and a vestment with certain lands and teñents to the yerelie vallewe by estim̃ vj^li.^ the certentie wherof thei are not able to declare. But they saie that one Thomas Baker of Mylton doth lett and sett the said Lands to the Vse of M^r^. Thornham clerke &c̃."

In the second year of her reign Elizabeth granted to George Howard, Knight, Master of her Armoury, the late Chapel of St. John within the parish of Newporte Pagnell, with all the lands thereto belonging, lying within Newport parish then lately assigned and limited to the stipend of the priest finding and maintaining celebrations within the Chapel on the day of St. John the Baptist, then or lately in the tenure or occupation of John Saunderson, Clerk, Rector of Middleton Keynes, otherwise Milton Keynes, Bucks.[1]

Thomas Pakington, Esq., and others, Her Majesty's Commissioners, certified in 21 Elizabeth[2] "that the Hospital of SS. John the Baptist and John the Evangelist in Newporte Paynell and all the lands, &c., are worth in all issues beyond reprises vj^s.^ viij^d.^ per annum clear."

In 30 Elizabeth, in pursuance of a warrant to Henry Nowell for concealed lands, dated the 12th June, in the 20th year of her reign, the Queen granted to Edward Wymarke, of London, Gentleman, his heirs and assigns, the free chapel of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist in Newport pannel and all lands to the same belonging, a rental of 20d. per annum being reserved.[3]

On the 22nd March 31 Elizabeth there is, however, another grant of the free Chapel of St. John the Baptist and John the Evangelist in Newport Pannell, and all lands, tenements, and hereditaments to the same belonging, to Walter Copinger and

1 Pat. Rolls, 2 Elizabeth, pt. 4, m. 11.

2 Exchequer Spect. Com. Bucks, No. 439 B, 21 Elizabeth.

3 Pat. 30 Elizabeth, pt. 7, m. 1.

Thomas Butler, of London, Gentlemen, the rent reserved in respect of the premises and of some Chantry lands included in the grant being 6s. 8d. per annum.[1]

On "the one and thirtyeth daye of Julye in the one and fortyeth yeare of the reigne of our Sovereign Ladye Elizabeth" an Inquisition[2] was taken at Buckingham with reference to the Hospital and certain other Newport Charities.

The presentation thus commences:—

"Imprimis we present that thair is an Hospitall called the Hospitall of St. John Baptist in Newport Pagnell in the sayd co. founded in or before the reigne of King Henry the thirde & that ther is and always from the foundation thereof hath bene a maister of the same hospitall presented thereunto by the Lords of the Mannor of Newport Pagnell aforesayd and that ther have been brothers sisters and poore people remayninge in the said hospitall and so ought ther to be mayntayned. And that ther have been likewyse certen poore people not long synce inhabitinge in certen tenements belonging to the said hospitall and have payd noe rent for the same. Item wee present that the old auncyente rentes of the lands belonging to the said hospitall were in valewe by the yeare seven poundes eighteen shillings and two pence and one load of strawe."

The Commissioners then set out the various Hospital properties, which are practically identical with those mentioned in James I.'s Charter, hereafter referred to.

The enumeration of the properties thus concludes:—

"Item that ther was a Chappell parcell of the said hospitall and that the great tymber thereof and the greatest parte of the frestones and walles of the same chappell to the valewe of 40s. hath been lately wasted pulled down and carryed awaye by Thomas Annesley gent."

The Commissioners further presented that "Thomas Phillipps gent. took the profytts of the lands belonging to the said hospital of John Baptist in Newport aforesaid of late by the space of twenty yeares or thereabouts and kept not hospitalitye thereupon and that after the decease of the said Mr. Phillipps Thomas Phillipps gent. his son procured one Thomas Potter clerk to be presented and instituted maister of the said hospitall whereupon the said Thomas Potter did demyse to the said Thomas Phillips

1 31 Elizabeth. p. 7, m. 31. See ante as to Chantry.

2 Chancery Petty Bag, Chancery Decrees, pt. 1, No. 10, 43 Elizabeth.

all the landes and revenues of the said hospital except the scite thereof for the terme of thre lives reserving to himself a yearlye rent of £6 13s. 4d. after which demyse the said Thomas Phillipps made leases to most of the tenants thereof for thre lyves doubling or nighe doubling of every tenants rente which had any such lease and afterwards the said Thomas Phillipps assigned his said lease to Thomas Annesley gent. for the sum of £27 and that the said Thos. Annesley after the said assignment to him made did take a newe lease of all the said landes and revenues of the said hospitall (the scite excepted) of the said Thomas Potter for terme of 21 yeares paying the rent of £6 13s. 4d."

And it was further presented "that ther are now neither brothers sisters nor poore people remayninge uppon and kept by or within the said hospitall or the revenues of the same. And further that by meanes of the said leases letten of the said hospitall landes by the said Thomas Potter maister of the said hospitall the same Thomas is not able of or by the rent reserved upon the said lease to kepe any brothers systers and poore people uppon the said hospital accordinglie as hath bene used presently after the foundacion thereof whereby the intent of the founder is altogether defrauded and left unperformed."

Judgment on the above findings was given by the Commissioners on 28th August 41 Elizabeth, and it was therein ordered that Thomas Potter and his successors, so long as existing leases should run, should yearly pay to the Overseers of the Poor £2 6s. 8d., such sum during the first seven years to be bestowed in reedifyinge and reparinge the ruines and destructions of the hospital. And likewise that Thomas Annesley, his executors and assigns, so long as he or they had any interest in the hospital lands under any leases, should yearly pay to the Overseers £2, such sum for seven years to be expended in repairs, and thenceforth, with the said sum of 46s. 8d., to be bestowed towards the relief of the poor people of Newport. Also it was ordered that the Master should thenceforth harbor within the said hospital such "nomber of poore aged and impotent persons" as theretofore had been harbored there, and, after the determination of the existing leases, should yearly pay the Overseers £4 6s. 8d.

Notwithstanding the Inquisition and Order, however, matters continued in a very unsatisfactory condition, and the Charity Commissioners in their Report of 1833 say that on the accession

of James I. the state of the endowment was laid before him in a Petition addressed to the Crown, and signed by Dr. Atkins and other Newport inhabitants.

[1]As a result, a further Inquisition was held at Newport, on 7th October 5 James I., and from the facts then adduced matters seem to have gone from bad to worse for the lands and hereditaments belonging to the Hospital were then and of "long tyme had been abused for that duringe the tyme of the memory of man ther had bene neyther brothers nor systers kept nor mayntayned in the said hospital nor by the revenues thereof." The Masters were in the habit of converting the rents wholly, or for the greatest part, to their own use, and the properties were getting into a lamentable condition.

The matter doubtless attracted some attention in Royal circles, partly possibly because of Dr. Atkins' standing as a Royal physician, and it came to the ears of the Queen's chaplain, among others, for in the State Papers is the following petition:—

"To the Queenes most excellent Matie.

"The humble peticon of John Siring yor Ma^ts faithfull servant & Chaplaine

"Most humble besseeching yor most excellent Matie in regard of his long & faithfull service wch heretofore he hath done for many yeares past & wch during his life he intendeth to doe to yor Ma^tye to be pleased to bestow vpon him during his lyfe the keeping & mastership of the old & ruinous Hospitall & Chappell in the Towne of Newport Pagnell in the Countie of Buck^m wth the profitts and comodities therevnto belonging and the guiding of such poore people as now are or hereafter shalbe placed in the same hospitall. The same being now void & in yor Ma^ts free guift & disposicon as pcell of the Mannor of Newport Pagnell being pte of the possessions of yor Ma^ts Joincture.

"And yor Ma^ts humble servant shall according to his bounden duty daily pray for yor H^rs long life & prosperous estate."

The finding of the Inquisition and of a judgment given in the Court of Chancery[2] whereby a sequestration of the Hospital lands was granted the townsmen, until the King might be moved for the renewing of the foundation or making a new foundation, induced James and his Queen to grant a charter for the purpose of re-establishing the Charity in a somewhat different form and

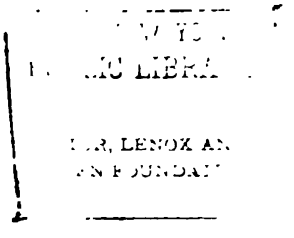
1 Addenda, James I., Vol. 40, No. 17. 2 Dodsworth MS. cii., 141.

under the patronage of the Queen.

As a consequence by a Charter or letters patent of King James I. and his consort, Queen Ann, dated 29th June, 13 Jac. I.,[1] reciting that a chapel attached to the hospital wherein divine worship was wont to be celebrated was then almost in decay, and no poor were then dwelling in the hospital, nor for many years had dwelt or received any maintenance from thence as appeared from certain orders and decrees in Chancery by Thomas Lord Ellesmere, Chancellor of England, and by the Court of Chancery established and published, the said King and Ann his Queen, favouring the relief of all with that charity they owed, and also desiring to restore the lands, liberties, and possessions of the said Hospital to the due and ancient state of charity, upon the humble petition of Henry Atkins, doctor of physic, and of other the inhabitants of the village of Newport Pagnell, granted that thereafter for ever, within the village of Newport Pagnell, near Tickford Bridge, in a certain place and close there near the site of the said hospital, then in decay, there should be of new, one hospital, of one master, four governors and six poor, of which poor, three should be men and three women; which said Hospital should be called the Hospital of Queen Ann, in the village of Newport Pagnell and it is further granted that the master governors and poor of the said Hospital should be called the master, governors and poor of Queen Ann's Hospital in Newport Pagnell, and by that name should be known for ever, and that by the same name they should be one corporate body and politic, in deed, fact, and name incorporate, and by the same name have perpetual succession; and that they should have a common seal to do and perfect their affairs, and by the same name should have power to take, and get, give and grant lands, tenements, liberties, franchises, hereditaments, goods and chattels for ever, and that by the same name they should have power to sue and implead and be impleaded in all their courts, and to do and act and fulfil all other things whatsoever that belonged or should belong to the office of a body politic and incorporate; and it is further granted and ordained that Thomas Webb, clerk, then vicar of the parish church of Newport Pagnell, should be the first master of the Hospital aforesaid, and should be so during the term of his life, if he should

1 The extracts here given are somewhat abridged from the copy of the Charter given in the 1833 Report of the Charity Commissioners.

TICKFORD BRIDGE.



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so long continue vicar of the said church and moreover that the aforesaid Thomas Webb, and his successors vicars of the said church, should for ever be the masters of the Hospital aforesaid successively from the time wherein they should respectively be instituted in the aforesaid church, and so long as they should remain vicars and incumbents of the said church respectively and the office of master of the said Hospital is thereby and by the authority aforesaid united to the vicar aforesaid and the aforesaid Queen Ann being patron of the said vicarage, and every other patron for the time being is thereby ordained patron of the said Hospital, reserving to the said queen the advowson of the vicarage of Newport Pagnell and the mastership of the Hospital during her life and after her decease to the said king his heirs and successors; and the said Henry Atkins and three others therein named are thereby appointed and ordained the first governors of the Hospital during their lives respectively, and the first poor are also appointed and it is thereby provided that as often as any one or more of the said four governors, or six poor aforesaid should happen to die or be removed from their place for any lawful or reasonable cause, it should be lawful to and for the master and governors or the greater part of them, to nominate one other governor or poor in the place of him so deceased, or for any lawful and reasonable cause removed, there to remain during life if in the meantime not removed as aforesaid; and furthermore it is decreed that every of the governors of the Hospital aforesaid thereafter from time to time for ever should be chosen by the master and other the governors of the said Hospital then surviving, or the greater number of them, the said election to be of the honestest men then inhabiting within the village or parish of Newport Pagnell, and not elsewhere; and that all the poor in the said Hospital thereafter, and from time to time for ever should be chosen of the poor then dwelling in the said village or parish at the time of his election, and by the space of seven years together next before the said election, and not of any other persons; and that every poor person should be chosen by the master and governors, or the greater number of them, and at the time of his election should be of the age of 50 years and upwards; and moreover, that any of the governors and poor aforesaid by the master and governors aforesaid, or the greater number of them, for any lawful and reasonable cause, from his place and office

might be suspended, removed or finally expelled according to the quality of their offences and the sound discretions of the said master and governors or the greater number of them, for ever, and if after the death, cession or removing of any governors or the poor of the said hospital the master and governors within six months next after the death, cession or removing of such governors or poor, should not nominate and substitute another in the place of the person so dead or removed that then and so often the Bishop of Lincoln for the time being should and might place one other of the inhabitants aforesaid, to remain there during life if in the meantime for some just and reasonable cause, by the greater number of them, he be not removed; and further, the said king and queen for the considerations aforesaid, out of their mere motion &c. granted for themselves, their heirs and successors, to the aforesaid master, governors and poor of the Hospital of Queen Ann, in Newport Pagnell and to their successors, the site of the house sometimes heretofore called the Hospital of St. John Baptist, near Tickford Bridge; and all that chapel lately belonging to the said Hospital, and then in decay; and all that loft once adjacent to the said chapel; and also all that little house, then lately built under the wall of the said old chapel; and all that house residue of the site of the said Hospital; and also all that messuage lying on the north part of Tickford Bridge upon the east of the said bridge, extending to the churchyard; and also all that piece of ground, called the Holme, situate in Newport Pagnell, between the river and the site of the Hospital aforesaid; and all those two messuages next adjacent to the north part of the site of the said Hospital and with the said Hospital sometime used; and also all that tenement lying at the upper end of St. John's Street in Newport Pagnell; and also all that messuage situate in the Marsh end of Newport Pagnell, adjoining to a certain street called Mables Lane; and all that messuage situate on the north part of Newport Pagnell, at the north end of the bridge; and all that messuage with a yard and close thereunto adjoining in the tenure of James Annesly, extending from the street near the cross, lying on the west part of the borough of Newport Pagnell, toward a certain little close called Backhouse Close; also all that yearly rent of twenty-pence, issuing and payable of and for a certain gate or one gatehouse near Tickford Bridge in the tenure of Agnes Hull, widow; and also all that close in the Marsh end of Newport

Pagnell, abutting upon the street against the corner house; and one acre of meadow lying in a certain meadow, called Dodd's Meadow, in Newport Pagnell; and all that yard land in the Port Field, in Newport Pagnell, in the tenure of Thomas Potter; also all that close situate in Tickford aforesaid within the parish of Newport Pagnell in the tenure of Thomas Cletherowe joining to a certain close in the tenure of Richard Rush, called Townsend Close, on the south and the land of Robert Annesly, gent., on the north; and all those lands, meadow and leys dispersedly lying within the fields and meadows of Tickford, Chichley and Sherington, in the said county of Bucks; and also all those lands and hereditaments situate in the fields of Caldecott, in the said parish of Newport, in the tenure of Thomas White and William White; also all that acre of land lying upon a certain furlong called Mead Furlong in the field of Caldecott aforesaid; also all that common of pasture within the fields and meadows of Caldecott for six great beasts and four score sheep to be fed and depastured; also all that piece of land situate in Tyrringham upon which a house, then in decay, sometime stood, with the land belonging thereunto in Tyrringham aforesaid, and Filgrave in the county aforesaid, out of which the rent of twenty shillings and eight pence had of old been reserved and paid, in the tenure of Anthony Tyrringham knight; and all that leys situate within the fields of Tickford on a certain furlong called the Ham, containing by estimation one acre; and all and singular messuages, chapels, buildings, lands, liberties, franchises, and hereditaments whatsoever, which then lately or some time were parcel of the possessions of the said hospital, commonly called the Hospital of St. John Baptist in Newport Pagnell, or by what other name the aforesaid lately or sometime hospital had been called. And it is further ordained that the said Thomas Lord Ellesmere should be the first supervisor and visitor of the hospital, and after his decease that the Bishop of Lincoln and his successors for ever for the time being, should be the supervisors and visitors of the said Hospital; and to the said Lord Ellesmere authority is given to make and establish laws, statutes and ordinances for the government as well of the master, governors and poor of the said Hospital, as also of the lands, possessions and goods thereof; and after the decease of the said Lord Ellesmere the same authority, if it should seem necessary, is given to the master and governors

of the hospital aforesaid for the time being, together with the assent and consent of the attorney-general or of the heirs and successors for the time being of the said king which laws and ordinances so as aforesaid to be made should be inviolably observed, provided that the same should not be contrary to the laws, statutes, ordinances and customs of the realm; and it is commanded that if any master, governor, or poor of the said Hospital should presume to go against the said laws and should not have care to due obedience to them after admonition given by the visitor every such offender should be held for a contemptuous person and be severely punished for the same by fine, and if he or they should not amend their offences by that correction, then that he or they should be by the said master, governors or poor, or in their default by the overseer and visitor of the said Hospital, utterly removed; and moreover, the said king and queen for themselves and their heirs and successors granted to the aforesaid master, governors and poor of the said Hospital, and their successors, all manner of liberties and hereditaments whatsoever, which the said master, governors and poor then had and enjoyed or which they or any their predecessors, by whatsoever name or incorporation had or enjoyed, or ought to have had and enjoyed by reason of any charters or letters patent by any of their progenitors or antecessors, kings or queens of England, or of any other charters or by any other lawful manner, right, title, custom &c. To hold all and singular the premises to the aforesaid master, governors and poor of the Hospital of Queen Ann in Newport Pagnell, and their successors for ever, to be held of the said king, his heirs and successors, as of his manor of East Greenwich, in the county of Kent, in common and free socage by fealty only; and moreover, it is thereby ordained that all the rents and revenues of all the lands, tenements, hereditaments and possessions theretofore and thereafter given to the perpetual sustenation and maintenance of the said Hospital, or to be given and assigned to that use, be accordingly disposed and expended for the maintenance of the master and poor of the said Hospital for the time being, and to and for the sustenation, maintenance and reparation of the houses, lands and possessions of the aforesaid Hospital, according to the statutes, laws and ordinances aforesaid, so as aforesaid to be made in writing, and not otherwise, nor to any other uses, and the said king and queen for themselves, their

heirs and successors, further granted that the aforesaid master, governors and poor of the Hospital aforesaid and their successors for ever might have and enjoy all and singular the premises, albeit of the estate of them the said queen or king, in the premises or that of the names of the tenants or farmers of the premises, or any parcel thereof or of the title of the said king and queen had to the premises, there be no mention notwithstanding, and the statute of mortmain notwithstanding.

At the time when the above charter was granted, a question was pending between the Hospital and the parties of the name of White, mentioned in the charter, as to the above mentioned right of common at Caldecot and an acre of land lying in Mead Furlong which the Hospital claimed.

This dispute was finally settled by a decree of the Court of Chancery, dated 27th November, 15 Car. II., which enjoined that Thomas White and his heirs should pay yearly to the Hospital 40s. in lieu of its claims in reference to lands belonging to the manor of Caldecott, as had been before directed by a decree of Commissioners of Charitable Uses, dated 30th October, 5 Jac. I., 1607.

It appears that no statutes or regulations for the government of the Charity were made until the year 1740. At that time an hospital had been built, containing two rooms above and two below, for the reception of six poor persons, who each received 2s. a week and 2s. yearly for firing, and a coat or gown every alternate year. At this period disputes had arisen between the Master and Governors respecting the occupation by the former of an upper room in the hospital as a library or study, also as to the share of the revenues of the hospital to which he was entitled under the charter, and to his right as Master to have a casting vote in the direction of the affairs of the charity in case of an equality of voices, in addition to his original vote. For the purpose of putting an end to all these controversies it was finally resolved that the subjoined rules and regulations should be made, which rules form the basis on which the present application of the charity rents is founded. They recite some of the foregoing facts, and that the Vicar of Newport Pagnell had been accustomed to receive £20 a year for his salary or stipend as Master of the hospital, and that the surplus revenue of the hospital estates, after paying the above allowances to the poor and Master's stipend, had annually been

applied towards relieving the poor of the hospital on extraordinary occasions, as sickness, &c., and to the maintenance of the Master, according to the discretion of the Governors.

At the time when the statutes were passed the Master occupied a house which had been erected about the year 1700 on the hospital property for his residence.

The following are the rules and regulations :—

1st.—That the hospital house, then out of repair, should be put into and constantly kept in decent repair, and be applied to no other use or uses whatsoever but only for the habitation and more decent reception of the poor of the said hospital, and that the hospital rooms should be quitted by the Master and wholly applied for the use of the poor.

2ndly.—The house of the Master and Vicar should be repaired by the Master and Governors out of the revenues, so as that no more should be expended thereon in one year than the yearly rent due from the Master and Vicar for the house and garden to the hospital, which was then £3 12s. per annum.

3rdly.—That from thenceforth all the surplus money to arise from the rents and profits of the said hospital estate, after the necessary outgoings were deducted and a yearly sum of £20 per annum paid to the said Master, and the said pensions of 2s. a week to each of the said six poor, besides their coats and gowns and 2s. each per annum for firing, should be divided in equal proportions annually between the said Master and poor, that is, one moiety thereof to the Master, the other to the poor, and that the proportion of surplus money which should be appointed to the use of the said poor should be received by the collecting Governor and laid up in the common chest, not to be issued thereout but by the order of the Governors for the assistance of the poor in time of sickness and other their occasions in necessity.

4thly.—That neither the Master nor any of the Governors of the said hospital should at any time thereafter hold, occupy, possess, and enjoy any other of the lands, tenements, or possessions belonging to the said hospital, without an order in writing first had and obtained under the hands of the said Master and Governors, or the major part of them, and without paying and allowing the best full improved yearly rent and rents for whatever he or they should so rent, hold, and enjoy, save that it was agreed that Mr. Banks (the then Master) should have St. John's Piece at

£3 4s. per annum during his incumbency in consideration of his expense for the improvement of it.

5thly.—That all the houses and buildings on the said hospital estate should be insured in some good fire office, to prevent any inconvenience or damage that might happen to the same or any part thereof by fire.

6thly.—That the said Master and Governors should meet half-yearly at some convenient public-house in Newport Pagnell to receive the rents, view the repairs, and transact the business of the said hospital, and that at every such half-yearly meeting a decent thrifty dinner, at as small expense as might be, not exceeding £1 5s., should be had and provided for the necessary refreshment of the said Master, Governors and poor, and the tenants of the said hospital estate who then paid their rents, as had theretofore been accustomed.

7thly.—That when any one of the poor of the said hospital should die the said Master and Governors should meet as soon as conveniently might be to elect another person in the room of him or her so dying, in which election, or any other election or order to be made by the said Master or Governors, or the major part of them, it is thereby declared, ordered, and appointed, that the said Master had not, or of right ought to have or pretend to have, any greater or other vote than the said Governors and every one of them respectively.

8thly and lastly.—In order that the above orders might be duly observed and kept, that the same should be fairly entered in the book of accounts kept of the said hospital, and likewise should be fairly wrote and hung up in a frame in one of the rooms of the said hospital house, to the intent the same might be known, understood, and duly observed by all parties concerned therein.

The above orders are dated 16th October, 1740, and are signed by the Master and two Governors, and approved by the then Bishop of Lincoln as visitor, who signed his name thereto in testimony of such approval.

The Attorney-General did not sign the rules, but it appears that his opinion was taken on them previous to their signature, and he referred the matter to the Bishop of Lincoln as visitor.

In 1825 the Hospital was re-built and divided Into three tenements above and three below, each comprising a sitting-room and sleeping-room. The three below were appropriated to the men

and the three above to the women.

In 1891 the Hospital, built in 1825, as already recorded, was pulled down and the present building erected on its site, from designs by Mr. Ernest Taylor.

A dedication service of the new building was held on Friday morning, 6th May, 1892, the Bishop of Reading delivering an address.

An old beam with the quaint inscription, "AL YOV GOOD CHRISTIANS THAT HERE DOOE PAS BY GIVE SOOMETHING TO THES POORE PEOPLE THAT IN ST IOHNS HOSPITAL DOETH LY ANo. 1615," has been re-inserted in the new building. It would seem to be the inscription placed on the Hospital built immediately after James I.'s charter.

The Common Seal of the Governors has the following inscription:—"SIGILLVM · HOSPITALIS · ANNE · REGNE · IN · NVPORT," and bears the figure of a man holding with his right hand what is apparently a club, which rests upon his left shoulder.

The report of 1833 contains a full list of the properties of the Charity at that time and the following summary of the same, with added notes, shows how they have been dealt with and what the Hospital possessions now consist of.

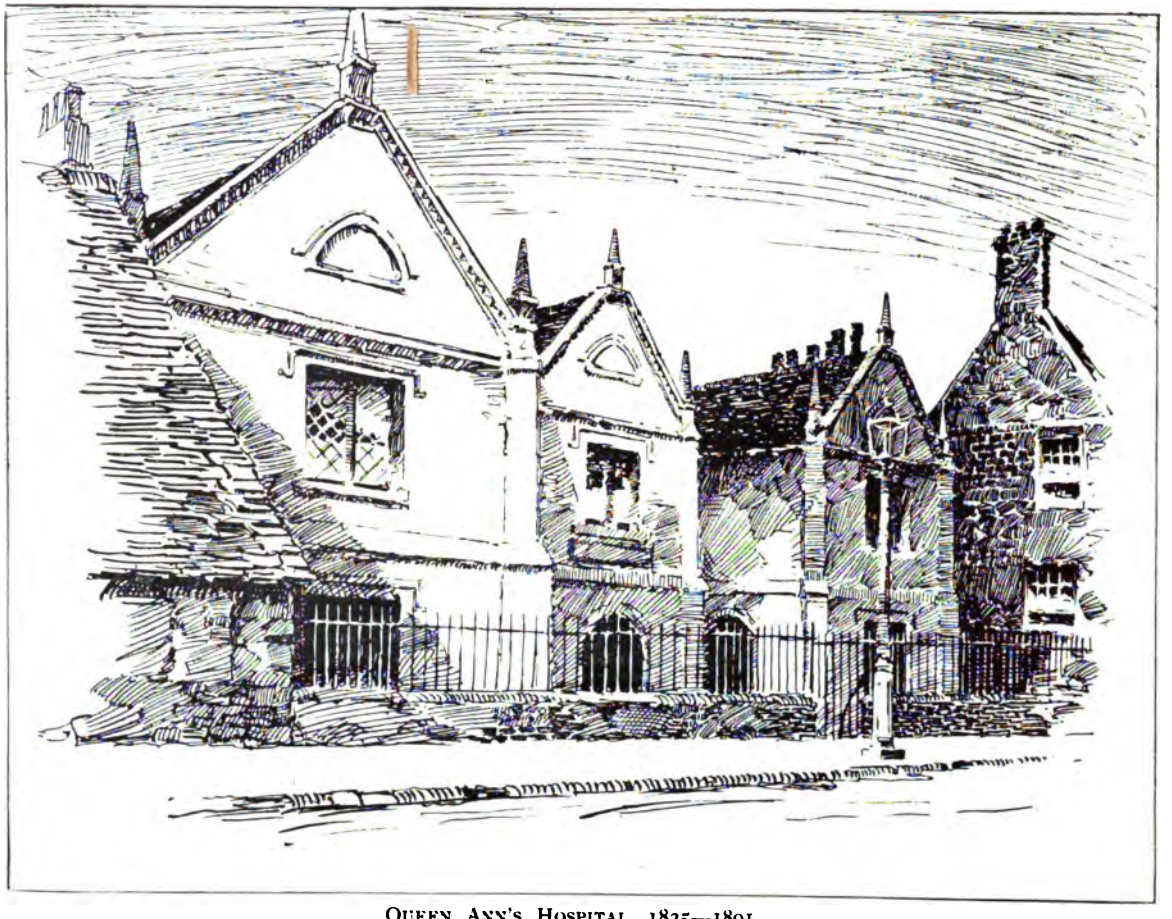
1.—Cottage adjoining the Hospital. This was pulled down in 1891 on the erection of the new building.

2.—Part of the public-house called the "Admiral Hood," near Tickford Bridge, with a cottage annexed. Sold in 1879 to Mr. David Emerson for £295, the proceeds now consisting of £272 8s. 9d. Consolidated £3 per cent. Annuities.

3.—A messuage adjoining the Master's house. This is identical with the house known as No. 30, St. John-street, in the occupation of Mrs. Henson.

4.—A house in St. John-street, let for £20, and the only part of the property of the charity subject to land-tax, which in 1833 was 9s., and allowed out of the rent. The house is now known as No. 3, St. John-street, and is let to Mr. John West, butcher. There are on it two inscriptions, practically the same, which run as follows:—"This howse belongeth to Queen Ann's Hospitall and was rebvilt By Madam Tasker a citizen in St. Giles Cripplegate London Anno Dom. 1690."

5.—Four messuages. Their position is not stated in the Report



QUEEN ANN'S HOSPITAL, 1825—1891.

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but presumably they are the premises now consisting of two houses next the churchyard.

6.—Two cottages and ground, containing two acres, in Marsh or Green end. This is the Caldecote Street property, consisting of two houses and garden occupied by Mr. Edward Thickpenny.

7.—Eight cottages in Tickford end. These were poor and old, and have been pulled down. The house in Tickford-street, occupied by Reuben Wise, is on their site.

8.—An allotment in Pitwell field of 9a. 2r. 27p., called Foxgate Close. Another allotment of 2r. 12p., made on Tickford Field Inclosure on an exchange with James Pike, laid into it. Another allotment of 25a. or. 7p., on a furlong called Ashway Hill and Clotty land, divided into two closes. The first and third allotments were made to the Master and Governors in 1794–5 on the enclosure of Portfield. The two first allotments are the allotments called Foxgate Piece on the Wolverton-road, while the third was sold in 1882 to Mr. A. J. Knapp for £2500, the purchase-money being invested in Consols.

9.—Three closes in Tickford end, containing 5a. or. 7p. This is the land on the London-road opposite Messrs. Salmons, and now in their occupation, and was awarded on the Tickford Field Inclosure.

10.—An allotment of 13a. 2r. 5p. in Mill field, awarded on the Tickford Field Inclosure, 1806–7. This is the allotment land on the east side of the London-road, now in the occupation of P. E. Butler, Esq., and his under-tenants.

11.—A close in Tickford end, and containing two acres. This is now used as a garden by Thomas Moore, and is on the London road.

12.—Thirty-one perches of pasture land at Sherrington. Now let to George Fleet.

13.—Yearly rent of 4s. for a gateway near Tickford bridge. Now paid by David Emmerson in respect of his premises.

14.—Close of pasture behind Hospital, containing half an acre. This is let to Mr. W. J. Powell, M.R.C.V.S., with house and garden.

15.—Rent-charge of £2 per annum issuing out of the Manor of Caldecot, which in 1833 belonged to John Andrew Lyon, Esq. This is now paid by the Trustees of Henry John Bartley, Esq., in respect of lands held by them. This sum is paid under a decree of the Court of Chancery of 27th November 15 Charles II., which enjoined that Thomas White and his heirs should yearly pay that

amount to the hospital in satisfaction of their claim to certain rights of common at Caldecot, and an acre of land in Mead's Furlong.

16.—A piece of garden ground adjoining Tickford Bridge, measuring westward from the bridge wall 42 feet at each end. It was purchased in 1831 for £35 out of the poor's surplus moiety of rents. It is now let to Mr. West.

17.—A sum of £480 Three per cent. Consols. These were purchased with the proceeds of the sale of a house called "The Tailor's Arms," on the North bridge, which was pulled down in 1809 on the re-building of the bridge.

18.—The tithes, both great and small, arising out of certain of the Hospital lands were awarded to the Master and Governors on the Tickford Field Inclosure in exchange for some lands which would otherwise have been allotted to the Hospital, which were awarded to James Pike, the former owner of the tithes. On the Hospital premises affected by the tithes being re-let a larger rent was arranged for in order that they might be held tithe-free, so that the tithes are really paid in the form of rent.

19.—A house (erected in 1697) and garden adjoining the Hospital. These premises were for many years occupied by the Vicars of Newport, as Masters, but since the purchase of the High Street Vicarage have been occupied by private tenants. The present occupant is Mr. W. J. Powell.

As a result of the above-mentioned sales and from other sources the Hospital has now, in addition to the above real estate, a sum in all of £3,450 9s. 2d. Consols.

The total general income from the Charity is about £305 7s. Repairs and expenses are paid out of this; £20 salary for the Master; 2s. weekly to each inmate of the hospital; the cost of a coat each for the men and a gown each for the women every second year; and 15s. for a dinner between them. The balance is divided into two parts, one of which is paid the Master and the other carried to the credit of an account called "the Poor's surplus moiety."

To the last named account is also paid the rent of the small garden let to Mr. West and purchased out of the poor's surplus as already mentioned and the dividends arising from a sum of £185 India Three per Cents which represent the balance from the 1892 Hospital Building Account. The moneys are applied in

paying the Hospital inmates 5s. each more each week, providing them with certain quantities of coal, paying for medical attendance, and defraying the water rates.

MASTERS OF THE HOSPITAL.[1]

Adam Russel	is the first that is mentioned in the Register of Lincoln.
Gilbert de Luda	was instituted Id. July 1291 by Dom. Roger de Sumery Knight on resignation of Russel. He died in 1302.
Richard de Wylyes	was presented, 18 Cal December 1302, by John de Somerie knight. He occurs 1316.
William de Wylie	resigned 1340.
John Drayton	was presented, in 1340, by Sir John Botecourte.
William Draper	was presented 5 Id. November, 1345, by Sir John Botecourte; not said how vacant.
Thomas atte More	sub. by John de Bottecourte knight, 13th March 1355, on resignation of Draper, and died Master of the Hospital in 1360.
Henry de Haukesherd	was presented 10 Cal July, 1360, by John Botecourte, lord of Welegh, and died in 1369.
Ralph Heyward	was instituted 25 January, 1369, on the presentation of Sir John Buttecourt "to the chapel of the House of St. John the Baptist next the bridge of Newport Paynell." Probably also the Vicar of Newport of that name 1378.
John Dene	was presented by Sir John Botecourt, lord of Wilie and Newport Paynell, 22nd August, 1374, on the resignation of Heyward. He exchanged to Boseate Rectory.
John Carter	presented 18th October, 1381, by Sir John Botetourt, on Dene's resignation, and died in 1386.

1 Taken from Lincoln Registers and Willis' List.

Thomas Mody — was presented 23rd November, 1386, by Dom Thomas de Harcourt "to the free chapel of the House of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist."

Henry Smith — occurs next. He died in 1483.

William Baynton or Boynton, S.T.P. — was presented 5th July, 1483, by Richard III. He died in 1496.

Thomas Vrmeston — Vicar of Newport in 1481, was presented 8th December, 1496, by Dom. John Grey knight, Lord of Wilton, to the Hospital or Free Chapel of Saints John the Baptist and Evangelist of Newport Pagnell, by virtue of a grant for the next turn from Thomas, Earl of Ormond, "true founder collater and patron" of the Hospital.

Thomas Smythson — was presented by Thomas, Earl of Ormond and Lord Rocheford, 25th July, 1501, on death of Vrmeston.

Thomas Copland, S.T.P., was presented by Thomas, Earl of Ormond and Lord Rocheford, 10th July, 1506, on death of Smythson, and resigned in 1510.

Edward Champion — was presented 7th February, 1510, by Thomas Earl of Ormond and Lord Rocheford, and died in 1529.

Thomas Thornham, M.A., was presented 25th May, 1529, by Sir John Alyn, knight, and W. Simstone, Esq., by grant, "pro hac vice," from Anne St. Leger, widow. He died in 1548.

John Sanderson — was instituted 5th December, 1548, on the presentation of John Baker, the oath of supremacy und of renunciation of the Pope's authority being first taken. He became Rector of Milton Keynes the next year.

Thomas Potter, — Vicar of Newport, which office he resigned in 1575, was presented 11th November, 1590, per lapsum, by the Bishop. He was afterwards Vicar of Willen, and died in 1599.

Thomas Underhill, M.A., was instituted 14th April, 1600, on the Queen's title. He was at the same time

collated to Willen. He resigned the Mastership on 29th April, 1607.

William Hicks, A.M., of Magdalen College, Oxon, was presented 10th July, 1607, by James I., and in 1608 Letters Patent were issued whereby it was directed that in the future the Vicar of Newport for the time being should by virtue of his office be also Master of the Hospital.

CHAPTER II.

Town Lands.

By an Inquisition, taken at Buckingham, on the 31st July in the 41st year of Elizabeth it was found that

William Kylchet

of Newport Pagnell, butcher, by his will, dated 23rd August 1558, gave a yearly rent of 13s. 4d. to be yearly distributed among the poor people of the Marsh End of Newport. The actual wording was that the devisee of certain premises should "paie for ever that is to saie while the worlde endureth . . . . thirteen shillings fourpence . . . . at the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle and the monie thereof to be distributed to the poore people dwelling within the compasse and precinct of the Marshe the week before Christmas." That William Tyler, by deed, dated 3rd June, 38 Elizabeth, in furtherance of the said gift had granted a rent-charge of 13s. 4d. out of a house in Marsh End and a close in the Weeke late Wm. Kylchett's and that the rent had been duly employed. That

Thomas Child

by his will, dated 29th November, 1559, gave a tenement in Tyckford towards the maintenance of Tickford Bridge, and that one Richard Smith was then tenant to the same house and that the rent had "bene ymployed about the mayntenance of the same bridge till now of late that the tenant had been molested and ympleaded about the tytle of the said tenement by means of the said George Annesley the rent thereof hath bene spent in defence of the same tytle." That

Beatrice Halladaye,

widow, being seised of a Burgage in Newport called "the Bell" and then "the Red Lyon,"[1] and of two closes, one in Fisher's Weeke and the other adjoining the Bury Field, gave the same

1 On 2nd Nov., 1620, the feoffes leased the house and premises called "the Redd Lyon" for 21 years to Francis Symonds, of Newport, fuller, at an annual rent of 12s.

towards the maintenance of the Bridge of Newport, amendment of the highways, amendment of the Parish Church, and relief of the poor there. And that the same premises descended, after her decease to Beatrice, her daughter, who gave them for the uses above mentioned by two deeds, the one dated the 12th February 16 Henry VIII., and the other the Feast of Innocents 15 Henry VII. That

Richard Reade and Ralph Hobbes,

by deeds, dated 3rd February, 1 Richard III., gave a Burgage called the Sarizens Head in Newport, three Shambles, and six acres of land in Newport to the maintenance of the bridges, amendment of the highways, amending of the parish church, and relief of the poor. That

Alice Cropthorne,

by deed, dated 4th November, 22 Henry VIII., gave half an acre of meadow in the West Meadow of Newport near the ford there to the last named purposes. That

John Sybley,

by deed, dated 6th February, 20 Henry VII., gave a close in Fyshers Week in Newport, next a close late Broughton's, to the same uses. That there were

Four Almshouses

in Newport wherein poor people did inhabit. That

William Stokes

of Tykford, yeoman, by his will, dated 4th May, 1548, bequeathed xx$^{li.}$ of his goodes to be bestowede aboute the fynyshinge of the steple of Newport and vppon the hie ways wt^{n} the sayd paryshe to be payd at such tymes and by such portions as should be thowght convenyent by Antony Cave esquyer Robert Annesley gent. and vj other of the honest men of y^{e} sayd paryshe. He also gave xx marks to forty poor maydis to every of them vj$^{s.}$ viij$^{d.}$ to be payd to them severally at the day of their maryages whereof xx to be in the paryshe of Newport and x in Hillesden and the other x within v myles of Newport. His wife Elizabeth and Robert his son were appointed co-executors. At the time of the Inquiry Elizabeth was then wife of George Annesley, but whether the moneys had been duly employed was not known.

The Fraternity of Saint Mary.

In connection with several of the before described properties and also with the descriptions of premises in the 1597 deed, hereafter referred to, it is curious to note that on 12th April, 28 Elizabeth, the

Queen,[1] subject to certain rents reserved in respect of the various premises, granted to John Walton and John Cressett the messuage called the Sarasins head, situate in Newporte Pagnell, in which the brotherhood feast was held; two shops called Bochers Stalles; and seven and a half acres of arrable land lying in pore (port ?) field; the said Sarasins head in the occupation of George Pawley to the fraternity of the Blessed Mary in Newporte Pagnell not long since belonging and then lately being parcel of its lands and possessions. And also the messuage called the Lion and two closes of pasture in Fishers Wekes; cottages in the tenures of Robert Richardson; Robert Harvy, and Thos. White, of Woborne; also a messuage dovecote buildings and one "Ort" to the same tenement belonging situate in the Marshe.

Some of these properties, at all events, were what were afterwards found at the Inquiry to be Town Lands, and it appears hardly beyond the bounds of probability that the Brotherhood referred to was one of the old Guilds which had for its object the maintenance and repair of the bridges, the repair of the highways, and relief of the poor, and was, in fact, the predecessor of the present Feoffees.

Other references to the Guild appear in the wills of John Cordall, William Fletcher, and John Warren, already mentioned, and in certain proceedings, taken in respect of the enclosure of 80 acres in Calcote, in the 35th year of Henry VIII., when a witness deposed that John White had "left a gappe indiched . . . . . agaynst iij leys belonging to the Brotherhed or ffraternitye of Newport callyd Lady Brotherhed."[2]

Another witness, in the course of the same proceedings, states that the Brotherhood of Newport have every of them certyn parcells of ground there.

As a result of this Inquiry at Buckingham an order was made, on the 28th August, 41 Elizabeth, that Thomas Wythers of Newport, Gent. and Robert Harvey of Newport, Yeoman, who were supposed to be the survivors of the feoffees of the above premises, should enfeoff certain persons therein named and that the deed should contain certain provisions for appointment of new feoffees.

Just prior to this, namely, on 2nd October, 1597, for some reason

1 Pat. 28 Elizabeth, p. 14, m. 12. 2 Court of Augmentations, vol. 126, fo. 17.

or another there was a feoffment of the Town Lands, and in it the Saracen's Head Shambles, &c., are thus described:—"All that one burgage called the Sarizon's heade situate lying and being within the Borough of Newport Pagnell aforesaid in the said County of Buckingham between the burgage of Thomas Shortred called the Swann on the east side and the burgage of George Annesley gent. heretofore of William Marlowe called the George on the west side and extending from the kings highway which leads to the Church of Newport Paynell aforesaid up to the lane called the Church lane together with the three 'Schamellis anglice Shambles' likewise situate and being in the middle of the place there called the highe streete at the end of the lower of the Butchers Shambles and adjoining a certain Shop formerly of Thomas White of Wobourne and now of Edward Nurse gent. on the west side. And all that our burgage with its appurtenances formerly called the Bell and now called the Redd Lyon situate lying and being within the Borough of Newport Paynell aforesaid in the said County of Buckingham in a place there called St. Johns Streete between the Burgage of Thomas Peete formerly called the Angell on the South side and the burgage of William Hawle on the North side and extending from the aforesaid street called St. John's Streete up to the burgage of the aforesaid Robert Newman And all those our two closes lying first in the ffyshers weekes within the parish of Newport Paynell aforesaid in the said County of Buckingham one of which closes lies between the Weekes Lane on the west side and the water called the water of Lovent on the east side and the Close of Edward Nurse gent. on the South and the other of the aforesaid two closes lies between the kings highway leading from the Weekes Lane aforesaid to Caldecot on the west side and the aforesaid water on the east side and the aforesaid Close of Edward Nurse on the North side and the Close of the Lord of Caldecote called Caldecott Leyes on the South side And all that other Close with its appurtenances lying in the Marsh of Newport Paynell aforesaid in the said County of Buckingham between the Close of Robert Aprice esquire and hereditaments of Guy Salysbury gent called Olyvers on the east side and the Inclosure belonging to the lately dissolved Priory of Tykford on the west side and abutting upon the field called the Buryffeelde on the North and upon the lower part of the aforesaid Close called Olyvers on the South end And all that our waste

land with its appurtenances formerly a garden lying in the Marsh of Newport Paynell aforesaid adjoining to the lane leading to the street called the Marshe Streete up to the messuage now or late of Lord Mordaunt in the tenure of John Colles on the North side and adjoining the tenement of Robert Mabley on the east side and the Inclosure belonging to the said messuage now or late of the said Lord Mordaunt on the west and south sides And all that our waste land with the appurtenances heretofore garden lying on the north side of the last named lane now in the tenure or occupation of Agnes Shortred widow adjoining the tenement belonging to the Hospital of St. John the Baptist on the east side. And also all those our six and a half acres of arable land and half an acre of pasture lying and being in the fields and meadows of Newport Paynell aforesaid . . . And also all those our two and a half acres of arable land with their appurtenances lying and being in the fields of Tyckford within the parish of Newport Paynell aforesaid . . . And also three and a half acres of arable land with their appurtenances lying in the fields of Chicheley."

A further Inquisition was taken at Newport Pagnell, on 1st April, 1641, the findings, after detailing the charities of Kilchett, Tyler, Childe (the tenant of the premises one Thomas Lillywhite then paying 30s. rent), Holliday, Reade and Hobbs, Cropthorne and Sybley, and the Almshouses (the poor people therein paying no rent), going on to state that there were two and a half acres[1] of arable land in Tickford fields and two[1] garden plots in Marsh end which had been time out of mind employed for the relief of the poor and amendment of the highways, church, and bridges. Also that

The Home

lying by the west side of the North bridge, anciently called Sweetmore, was employed for repairing such bridge time out of memory of man. That

Richard Bludd

of Newport Pagnell, yeoman, by deed, dated 20th April, 41 Elizabeth, conveyed a messuage "extending from the Street leading towards the Church on the North unto the Lane called Church Lane on the South" wherein Arthur Humphrye then dwelt for the use of the poor of Newport as the Towne stocke or towne land, as if the

1 These are included in the 1597 deed, the description of the garden plots having been already quoted.

said towne or burrough of Newport aforesaid were incorporated and inabled by that name to take and purchase the same house, should or ought to be imployed or bestowed.[1]

Thomas Godstow,

by deed, dated 29th October, 41 Elizabeth, gave his "lyttle house standing in the Borrough of Newport aforesayd at the west end of the house belonging to the common Inn called the Sarrisons heade and adjoyninge to the lane called the Church Lane on the sowth and also all that his piece of grounde to the saide house adioyninge now added and adioyned to the garden which belongeth to the said Inn called the Sarisons heade which piece of ground reacheth from the Burgage called the Swann to the said lane called the Church Lane and is divyded from the garden place or over yarde now occupyed to the Burgage called the Swann with a stone wall and fence" upon trust that, after his decease, the rents should be bestowed "to and upon the poor people which shall inhabite and dwell within the parish of Newport as the towne stock or towne land." That

Sir William Powlett

Lord St. John, and Dame Agnes his wife, by an Indenture of Lease, dated 30th December, 15 Elizabeth, demised to George Pawley[2] of Newport yeoman the backyard then belonging to the Sarasons Head and two great buildings thereto belonging once called the Lyon (then however utterly decayed), for the term of 5000 years at a rent of one penny and service to the Court of the Manor of Broughton. That the said premises afterwards came into the possession of Ann Cobb, widow, daughter and heir of George Pawley, and that she by deed, dated 26th September, 20 James I., in consideration of the payment of £136, assigned the same term to feoffees in trust for the use of the town.[3]

As a result of the Inquisition the Commissioners decreed that John Potter the elder of Newport Pagnell, yeoman, Thomas Hull of Farnham, County Surrey, yeoman, Robert Kilpin of Hockliffe, county Bedford, clerk, and John Dudley of Woolston, yeoman, who were supposed to be the surviving feoffees, should enter on the

1 On 21 Feb., 45 Eliz., Joyce Bludd wife of R. Bludd, released her right to dower.

2 Thomas Pawley of London, draper, a brother, by his will proved in 1572, left 20s. "to the poore of the town where he was born Newport Pagnell."

3 Another deed, however, dated 10th June, 1628, purporting to assign the residue of the term to the feoffees, seems to have for its consideration an exchange of 3½ acres of land in Chicheley.

premises and, after such entry, by Indenture tripartite between themselves of the first part eighteen persons (named) of the second part and the churchwardens of Newport for the time being of the third part enfeoff the parties of the second part and their heirs of the premises upon the trusts and subject to the conditions therein specified.

Goose Half Acre.

On a board in the church concerning benefactions is the following:—"3s. 4d. out of Goose Half Acre in Water Leys."[1]

The foregoing appears to generally deal with the various town properties to the middle of the seventeenth century.

About 1833 an Inquiry was held as to all the charities and the result is fully recorded in the Commissioners' Report of that date, and only recently a Scheme for dealing with the charity has been formulated. The Scheme contains a Schedule of the various properties, and the following summary will shew how they have been dealt with and can be identified with those mentioned in the findings of the Commissioners in the sixteenth and seveneenth centuries.

William Kylchet's Dole.

The rent charge of 13s. 4d. in 1833 was annually received by the feoffees and issued out of a close, then called Redhouse Close, the property of George Lucas esquire. The amount still issues from the same close being now payable by the Executors of Mr. Gervase Smith Hives the present owners.

Thomas Child's Gift.

By the Act of Parliament, passed 49 George III c. 144, for taking down and rebuilding the Bridges it was enacted, by section 40, that the feoffees in whom was vested the messuage in Tickford given by Child and then occupied as three tenements, should pay the rents to the Bridge Trustees towards the support and repairs of the bridges. In 1833 it was found that the Bridge Trustees had pulled down the old building and built five cottages on their site. These, with a garden to each, were let by the Trustees and the rents, amounting to £5 4s. 0d. for each cottage, received by them. They also at that time received 5s. from one William Jefferson for the rent of a piece of ground used as a cart way. By the

1 The closes called Greenclose, Doxhouse and Goseclose are referred to in some proceedings taken by John Barker and Johan, his wife, against William Hanchett.—Court of Requests. Bdle 3. No. 111.

Provisional Order of 15th July, 1897, these premises were amongst those transferred to the Bucks County Council, being described in the Schedule to the Order as "All those five cottages or tenements situate on the south west side of Tickford Street aforesaid and now or lately in the respective occupations of John Miller, John Roberts, Kisby Rainbow, George Parsons and Samuel Hickford." Also "All that piece or plot of garden ground being at the back of the above mentioned cottages divided into plots and in the respective occupations of" the last named tenants. Also "All that slip of land leading from Tickford Street to premises belonging to the Bridge Trustees and to other premises belonging to David Cook and others and for which a quit rent of six shillings per annum is paid by the said David Cook for the right of passing over the same." Also "All that small piece of garden ground adjoining the last mentioned slip of ground and now or lately in the occupation of George Edward Burgess."

Beatrice Halladaye's Gift.

Part of the old Red Lion premises were in July, 1713, demised by the feoffees to one Ambrose Gregory for 999 years at the yearly rent of £8 payable at Michaelmas and Lady Day under the description of "All that messuage wherein widow Buck then lately dwelt and also all those two rooms thereunto adjoining under the gateway and all that part of it built adjoining to the said two rooms; and also all that cottage then in the occupation of Edward Blunt; and also all that part of the garden as then staked out being straight from the doorway to the building of John Marsh, a free passage or watercourse through the yard of the premises being reserved to the Trustees they being at the expense of keeping the same in repair." In 1883 the premises consisted of (1) A house in St. John Street with a yard in the occupation of Edward Daniel and a small part of a garden in the occupation of William Cripps, and (2) A house yard and garden in Silver Street in the occupation of Samuel Buckby. The first part of the property had been assigned and the term was vested in William Cripps, while the term of the second part was vested in S. Buckby. By an arrangement between themselves Cripps then paid £6 and Buckby £2 of the rent of £8 reserved by the lease of 1713. At the present time Mrs. Jane Tarry pays £6 in respect of the house in St. John Street, and The Church Institute and Masonic Hall Company Limited pay £2 in respect of the building in Silver

Street used as a Church Institute and, until lately, as a Masonic Hall also.

The remainder of the Red Lion block consisted in 1833 of a house and large yard in St. John Street, then and for some time previously used as a workhouse, and for which no rent was charged. It is now represented by the shop and premises occupied by Mr. Alfred Bullard at a rental of £14.

As to the two closes. One, a close of pasture in Fisher's Wick containing about one and a half acres, was, in 1833, let to George Lucas, Esq., as yearly tenant at a rent of £6 10s., and is now apparently the close and bathing place together containing the same area and let to Mr. Henry Joseph Watson and the Urban District Council at the respective rentals of £5 and £1 10s. The other close, also pasture, containing about two acres and adjoining Bury Field, was in 1833 let to Mr. James Pike at a yearly rent of £7, and is now let to Mr. Bryan Hunt for £10.

Read, Hobbs and Cropthorne's Gifts. Sweetmore or Hogs Holme. Powlett and Cobb Purchase.

By lease, dated 18th March, 1678, the feoffees demised to Ralph Lawton of Gayhurst Esquire the messuage called the Saracen's Head Inn, then in the occupation of John Carter or his assigns, also the messuage, then in the occupation of William Cowley, situate between the Swan Inn and the George Inn and lying next the lane called the Church Foot Lane, and also the meadow or holme lying near and adjoining to the North Bridge unto the Saracen's Head belonging and therewith usually enjoyed called Hog Holme or Sweetmore Holme to hold, from Lady Day then next, for the term of 1000 years at a yearly rent of £25 5s., payable at Michaelmas and Lady Day, and subject to, amongst others, a covenant to expend £300 in building on the premises within three years.

In 1833 it was found that the premises included in the lease consisted of the Saracen's Head with yards, stables, &c., three cottages built upon the site of some stables belonging to the Saracen's Head, three messuages in St. John Street, and the Holme called Hog's Holme. The remainder of the term as regarded two of the St. John Street houses had been assigned and, as regarded one of them, was then vested in the executors of John Burnham and, as regarded the other, in John Nash. The assignee of the original term was then George Clarke, and the £25 5s. paid by

him was in respect of all the above premises. In the Scheme it is stated that the rent of £25 5s. is payable in respect of the three houses and shops in High Street occupied by Messrs. George Edward Burgess, Alfred Simpson, and William Cotton only.

On the Inclosure of Port Field in 1795 a piece of land in Ash Lane containing 8a. 2r. 8p. and pieces containing 11p. and 10p. respectively, the one adjoining an old enclosure of the feoffees in Rosebridge Lane, and the other an old inclosure of theirs on the Willen and Tongwell Road, were allotted to the feoffees in lieu of their lands and rights of common in respect apparently of the land given by Read and Hobbs and Cropthorne.

In 1833 the allotment up Ash Lane was known as Ashway Hill Close, and was let to Mr. Luke Price at a yearly rent of £16 10s.

On 18th April, 1888, the feoffees conveyed two roods of this close to the Rural Sanitary Authority of Newport Pagnell, as a site for a well and works for the purpose of supplying the town with water, the purchase money of £66 5s. being apparently included in the £101 4s. 4d. New Consols standing in the name of the Official Trustees bringing in £2 15s. 8d.

The rest of the close, which is still known by the above name, is let to Mr. James Goodman for £20 per annum.

Sybley's Gift.

This close of pasture in Fisher's Wicks consisting of two acres was in 1833 let to George Simcox as yearly tenant, at a rent of £8. It is now occupied by the Executors of Mr. John Odell, who pay £8.

Four Almshouses.

In 1833 these almshouses on the Green End were occupied, rent free, by poor people put in by the feoffees,

There are now six almshouses on their site (which is near to the Town Hall), the inmates being allowed 2s. 6d. each and five hundredweight of coal at Christmas.

Tickford and Marsh End Land.

On the enclosure of Tickford fields, in 1808, a piece of pasture land containing 3a. or. 8p. and on the London Road, was allotted to the feoffees in lieu of their lands, consisting of the two and a half acres before mentioned and rights of common and forecrop in Tickford field. In 1833 the land was let to Benjamin Dawkes at the yearly rent of £8. It is now let to Mr. Alfred Sparkes for £6.

The Marsh End land was, in 1833, apparently represented by

half a rood of land on which eight almshouses had been built, which were occupied by poor people put in by the feoffees rent free.

At the present time there are nine almshouses, built in the form of and known as The Crescent. The lane in which they are situate, formerly known as Pool's Lane, is now known as Bury Street. The inmates have the same allowance as those in the other almshouses.[1]

Blood's Gift.

This, in 1833, was represented by two houses in High Street which were rebuilt in 1819-20 (the site of same having been let for 21 years on a repairing lease at a rental of £10); two cottages in Church Lane, one let to Widow Pales at £3 10s., the other to Thomas Brown at £3 10s.; and by two cottages in the Churchyard let to the Churchwardens at a rent of £3 for the two. The premises now consist of the house and shop in High Street, let to Mr. William Fleet for £20; of the premises used as a Fire Brigade Station adjoining, and let for £12; and of a cottage in Church Passage let to Mr. George Welch for £9 8s.

Godstowe's Gift.

In 1833 this "lyttle house" and piece of ground was described as a slip of ground occupied as a doorway or entrance from the Church Lane to Mr. William Marshall's house, for which he paid 2d. a year. There is no record of this gift in the recent scheme.

Goose Half Acre Charge.

In 1833 the sum of 3s. 4d. was paid by Mr. Woolhead, the owner of the water corn mills and contiguous meadows, in one of which, called Water Leys, adjoining Midsummer Holme, the Goose Half Acre lies. The rent is still duly paid by Messrs. Rowlatt & Co., the present owners of the premises.

Tithe Rent Charge.

As mentioned elsewhere,[2] there is a sum of £4 0s. 6d. payable by the feoffees. £2 10s. 8d. is charged on Ashway Hill Close, 9s. 11d. on the Fisher Wick Close occupied by Mr. Odell's executors, 8s. 9d. on the close occupied by Mr. Watson and the

1 From a deed of 1676 in possession of the Urban Council it appears that eight houses in Poole's Lane, habitations for poor people of Newport Pagnell, had then lately been rebuilt.

2 Vide p. 60 ante.

Council, and the remaining 11s. 2d. on the Bury Field Close occupied by Mr. Hunt.

Land Tax Redemption.

The 1833 report states that about 1816 two houses in North End belonging to the feoffees (it was not known how they were acquired) were sold to the Bridge Trustees for £115, of which £105 17s. 0½d. was applied to the redemption of land tax on the whole of the feoffee property in 1817.

Rental.

In 1833 the gross income was £100 1s. 10d., and now is about £142 15s. 4d.

National School.

The land now occupied by the National School and then covered by six tenements, was purchased by the feoffees on 18th July, 1748, and its history is dealt with elsewhere.

The Shambles.

The fate of the three shambles does not seem clear.[1] On 18th September, 1693, the feoffees leased to Thomas Kent, butcher, at an annual rent of £3, the three butcher shambles, commonly called the town shambles, situate in the Market Place of Newport, whereof one was then enclosed, together with all stalls and shops. The tenant covenanted, moreover, to repair and keep the pavement of the street against the said shambles and shop to the channells on both sides in good repair, and this is the last apparent trace of them, unless they are identical with the premises in the middle of High Street elsewhere referred to.

New Scheme.

The Town Lands are now managed in accordance with a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 22nd March, 1898, whereby provision is made (except at first when certain Co-optative Trustees are appointed for life) for the election of a body of ten Trustees, five representative (elected by the Urban Council) and five co-optative (elected for eight years by the other Trustees), and for the application of the net income as follows :—

One fourth to the Churchwardens in payment of any charges lawfully incurred by them in the maintenance and repair of the fabric of the Parish Church and subject thereto in payment of like charges in respect of the maintenance of the Church services and

1 Eight Shambles are referred to in one document.

furniture. Provision is also made for investment of any surplus so as to form a reserve for extraordinary Church expenditure.

One fourth to the Bucks County Council in respect of the bridges as mentioned elsewhere in the account of the bridges.

One fourth in respect of repairs of highways, to the proper authority, to be applied in reduction of rates in the civil parish of Newport Pagnell.

One fourth in payments for the benefit of the poor in Newport, or deserving and necessitous persons resident there, in such manner as is thought most advantageous to the recipients and conducive to the formation of provident habits as therein particularly mentioned.

CHAPTER III.

OTHER CHARITIES AND ENDOWMENTS.

ATTERBURY'S CHARITY.

THE Rev. Lewis Atterbury, D.D., by his will, dated the 16th March, 1730, bequeathed to the Charity School in Newport Pagnell £10 yearly for ever to be paid by his executor (Rev. Edward Yardley) and his heirs out of the real estate, thereby vested in him and them, to the mistress of the said School for the teaching twenty poor girls, inhabitants of Newport Pagnell, to work plain work, read, and write. There were, too, other provisions intended to benefit the Charity.

By an Order, however, of the Court of Chancery dated 16th October, 1742, (Dr. Atterbury having died on the 20th October, 1731, and his will having been proved on 13th December, 1731), a scheme for the administration of the Charity was settled of which the following is the substance:—That the appointment of the mistress of the Charity School of Newton Pagnell should be in Mr. Osborn Atterbury and his heirs. That the £10 per annum should be paid out of the estate charged therewith half yearly, at Michaelmas and Lady Day, to the Master and Governors of Queen Ann's Hospital, and Mr. Osborn Atterbury and his heirs should be perpetual inspectors of the school, and should have power on any neglect or misbehaviour of the schoolmistress to put her out and deprive her of the said place and salary; and in such case Mr. Atterbury and his heirs should appoint another to succeed her; that on a vacancy by death or otherwise of the schoolmistress Mr. Atterbury and his heirs should appoint another; and in case he or they should neglect or refuse to do the same, for the space of six months after such vacancy had been signified to him or them by the said Masters and Governors, in writing, that then

the appointment of the mistress for that time should devolve to the said Master and Governors; that the nominating the children in the said school, and the putting out and dismissing of them, should be wholly under the direction of the said Master and Governors, who should, from time to time, at their own expense, provide a proper room or rooms for a school, wherein the said schoolmistress should teach the children committed to her care.

In 1819 the school was conducted in the building erected by Samuel Christie for use as a workhouse, the Master and Governors expending £32 out of the income of the Charity in repairs on the premises, the school having been stopped for three years to supply the funds.

In 1833 the rent of £10 was annually received from the Hon. Edward Bouverie, and issued out of an Estate of his at Great Houghton in the County of Northampton. It was then paid to one Eleanor Walker, who taught, in respect thereof, plain work, reading, and writing, to twenty poor girls who were charged no fee.

The schoolmistress was appointed by the Master and Governors who also selected the children to be taught, from among the poor inhabitants of the parish, without distinction as to religious belief. The heir of Mr. Atterbury had then ceased to take any interest in the concerns of the Charity.

This Charity, together with the Christie Charity, (see under "Christie's School House") were dealt with by an Order and Scheme of the Charity Commissioners, dated 25th October, 1892, which provided that the properties of the two Charities should vest in the Official Trustee, the rent charge being mentioned as still issuing from an estate at Great Houghton then the property of John A. Shiel Bouverie, Esq.; that the Trustees should be the Master and Governors for the time being of the Hospital of Queen Ann; that the income should be applied for the benefit of poor girls bonâ fide resident in the parish of Newport Pagnell in one or more of the following ways: (a) Rewards for proficiency in needlework to poor girls attending some Public Elementary School; (b) Contributions towards the provision of industrial or technical instruction suitable for poor girls in any such School; (c) Contributions towards the cost of providing an outfit for girls on their leaving any such School.

A further Scheme of the Commissioners, sealed in 1898, provides for the two Charities being called the Atterbury and Christie

Educational Charity. In addition, moreover, to the ways prescribed by the 1892 Scheme for the application of the income, the Scheme authorises the Trustees to apply the whole or any part of the income in the maintenance of an exhibition or exhibitions to be awarded to girls, bonâ fide resident in the parish, who had completed their engagement as pupil teachers in public elementary schools, and to be tenable by them during such period, not exceeding two years, as they were in residence at any training college for teachers aided by a Parliamentary grant, or attending any day training college for teachers recognised by the Education Department. In the award of these exhibitions preference was to be given to girls in need of assistance to enable them to reside at or attend a training college. The exhibitions were moreover to be awarded and held under such conditions as the Trustees thought fit, and to be given as the reward of merit and tenable only for the purposes of education.

Dr. Atterbury by his will desired also to benefit the Vicars of Newport Pagnell, for he directed his executors, with the approbation of the Master and Governors of Queen Ann's Hospital, to purchase the advowson of some rectory or vicarage in the neighbourhood of Newport compatible to be held with the vicarage of Newport, and so soon as it was vacant to present thereunto the Vicar of Newport Pagnell for the time being, and from time to time afterwards to present thereunto the same person who should be presented to the Vicarage of Newport, so as the said Vicar of Newport be legally qualified to take and hold the same. This was not done, but it is worth while to note the rumour as to a gift of £200 mentioned in the chapter on Church History.

The Doctor also left directions for putting out children apprentice and raising a fund to befriend industrious young tradesmen of Newport, as was done in White's Charity at Northampton.

BEATY ALMSHOUSES.

By an Indenture, dated the 9th June, 1843, made between Charlotte Beaty of Newport Pagnell, Spinster, of the first part, and the Reverend Thomas Palmer Bull and Josiah Bull, Protestant Dissenting Ministers, and John Rogers, Surgeon, all of Newport Pagnell, of the second part, Miss Beaty granted to the parties of

the second part First the four cottages or tenements with the barns yard and plot of ground in front and on the East side thereof which cottages were then lately erected by her on a piece of ground in the North end of Newport Pagnell in or near a Lane or Street theretofore called Dungeon Lane but then Union Street and Secondly two cottages standing on the remaining part of the said piece of ground and adjoining the Infants and Girls School Upon trust during her life to let the premises and invest the net residue of the income therefrom and after her death Upon trust to allow each of the four cottages to be occupied, so long as they conduct themselves to the satisfaction of the Trustees, by a poor man with his wife or an unmarried person, male or female, whether receiving parochial relief or otherwise and whether legally settled in the Parish of Newport Pagnell or not who for twelve months next preceding such appointment shall have formed part of the congregation of Protestant Dissenters of the Independent denomination then assembling for religious worship in the Independent Meeting House at Newport Pagnell, of which congregation the said Thomas Palmer Bull and Josiah Bull were then the Ministers or Pastors, preference being given to such person or persons who should be communicants and who were usually amongst Protestant Dissenters of the Independent denomination termed Church Members. The deed further provided that in the event of there being no such persons the inmates should be English Protestant Dissenters from the Established Church, and failing such should be Members of the Established Church of England. Further that no one under fifty years of age should be admitted as an inmate and that no occupant should take in anyone under six or any one indeed except one relative or friend approved by the Trustees. The Trustees were directed to let the cottages secondly described and to apply the rents with any dividends from the stock (purchased with accumulations of rent during Miss Beaty's lifetime) in insuring and repairing all the premises, any surplus to go to the occupants of the four cottages. It was also provided that the Trustees should not be less than eight nor more than nine, and that they should for twelve months have formed part of the Independent congregation and resided in Newport Pagnell—the Minister of such congregation always to be one of such Trustees.

By a Codicil to her Will, dated the 22nd September, 1843, Miss Beaty directed her Trustees to purchase £1550 £3 per centum

Consolidated Bank Annuities in aid of the accumulations of income mentioned in the Deed.

Miss Beaty died on 19th July, 1850, aged 76, and was buried at night by torchlight, in the Churchyard, close to the Church. Her will and codicils were proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 10th August, 1850, and the Stock duly purchased.

On 11th March, 1870, the premises were vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands, the sum of £1604 1s. 9d. £3 per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities being also vested in him on 5th March, 1870, by an Order of the Charity Commissioners.

For many years five shillings each per week was paid to the occupants of the Almshouses, but, owing to the reduction of the rate of interest on Consols, it was, in 1896, found necessary to reduce the amount to 4s. 6d., which is the sum now paid.

There is a mural tablet to the memory of Miss Beaty and Mrs. Higgins in the Independent Chapel.

Respecting the former lady the following lines were composed, in 1867, by a well-known theologian living in the neighbourhood:—

The lady who lies buried here
As I have heard folks say,
Held herself half within the Church
And half the other way.

And now in death alike she is
A subject of much doubt:
Whether her body lies within
The Church, or lies without.

Next, a grave question rises up,
Touching her buried bones;
(For modern Science claims to fix
All things in certain zones:)

To wit—as thus deposited
Now past all mortal pains;
Shall we call "Inorganic or
Organic" her remains?

However these questions be resolved,
In wishes all agree
For her soul's peace—may evermore
Beaty "beata be."

CHRISTIE'S SCHOOL HOUSE.

By his will, dated 19th July, 1703, Samuel Christie of Newport Pagnel Esquire gave, at the time and on the conditions therein mentioned, one whole year's rent of his estates to John Rogers of Newport Pagnell Gent. and Charles Dymoke the younger of Cranfield Gent. upon trust to pay the same into the hands of the Overseers of the poor of the parish of Newport Pagnell for the use benefit imploying and setting to work of such poor people of Newport Pagnell as should receive collection and be employed at work in a Common Workhouse which he, the Testator, had lately erected in a place called the Paggs or Paggonells in Newport Pagnel. The Testator further gave and bequeathed unto his loving friends Thomas Chapman of Caldecott Esquire, John Chowne, Matthias Coney, Nicholas Chibnall and Thomas Withers, all of Newport Pagnell, and their heirs, the said house lately erected by him with the yard thereunto belonging in trust for the parish of Newport Pagnell and to be for ever thereafter imployed as a Common Workhouse for the poor of the said parish in such trades and imployments and under such regulations for the use and benefit of the poor of the said parish as to his said loving friends or the major part of them for the time being should seem most profitable and convenient and when any three of his said friends were dead Testator directed that the two survivors should make a Conveyance of the premises to the use of themselves and any six others of the inhabitants of the said parish upon the trust aforesaid and that all future trustees when reduced by death to two should toties quoties make a like conveyance to a competent number of inhabitants. Testator went on to declare that when the Workhouse should be imployed to any other uses or purposes than what he had by that his will directed the devise thereof should be void, and the premises revert to his right heirs for ever.

Samuel Christie was buried on 24th July, 1703, and by Indentures of Lease and Release dated the 23rd and 24th October, 1723, the premises were duly assured upon the trusts of the said will.

In "An Account of the Workhouses in Great Britain in the year 1732," there is published a letter from Newport, dated December 31st, 1724, giving a very interesting account of the provision then made there for the relief of the poor. It runs as follows:—

"When any poor person can be provided for at an easier Rate

by the Parish, than by sending them to the Workhouse, the Person is not sent.

"All who are maintained in this Workhouse, are also lodged and kept to work, the Benefit whereof is taken by the Overseers of the poor, and what the Work of the People in the Workhouse wants of maintaining them, the Overseers supply.

"By this means the Poor's Levies, which us'd to be seven Six-pences in the Year, are reduced to three.

"There is a Master appointed over the House, his Salary is 17l. per Annum; his office is to keep the Poor to their Work, to buy in all Provision for the Maintenance of the Poor, see to the dressing and distribution of it, and to give an Account to the Overseers of the Poor of what is earned or expended.

"The Poor are allowed Meat three Days in the Week, upon others Milk, or Milk-Porridge; they have small Beer, and coarse wheaten Bread, with Butter or Cheese, or Broth, for Breakfast and Suppers.

"If any are sick, they are still kept and maintained in the Work-house and such things allowed them as they can eat.

"The Poor who belong to the House, are cloathed as well as fed and lodged.

"It is reckoned that the Board of every Poor Person in the House, is about twelve-pence a Week apiece Charge to the Parish.

"As to Firing, Cloathes, Rent of the Workhouse, the Master of the Workhouse is not concerned about these, but the Overseers of the Poor take care to provide them."

In the year 1819 the premises were used, as already mentioned in the account of Atterbury's Charity, as a school house, and continued to be so used for many years.

Eventually the Schemes of the Charity Commissioners of 1892 and 1898, already mentioned, were obtained, the former referring to the premises as the messuage known as Christie's School house with site situated in Pagg's Court, Newport Pagnell, and in the occupation of John Yates Mitchell at an annual rent of £8 14s. 0d.

The house still stands, and on a stone over the door is the following inscription :—

"For even when we were with you this we commanded you that if any would not work neither should be eat. 2 Thes: 3 ch: 10 v: Laboremus 1702."

COLLISON'S CHARITY.

By his will, dated 25th January, 1858, Robert Collison of Newport Pagnell, Surgeon, gave to the Governors of Queen Ann's Hospital for the time being £2000 stock in the New Three per cents. in the Bank of England In trust for the benefit of the poor of Newport Pagnell the interest money arising therefrom to be laid out in providing food, fuel, and clothing, for the use and comfort of the said poor residing and belonging to the said parish of Newport Pagnell for ever, beginning on the 25th day of January and ending on or before the 25th day of March following, preference being given particularly to those needy persons who strictly attended to the religious duties of the Church of England and were of good moral character.

He also gave to the same Governors of the Hospital £50 stock in the New Three per cents in trust for the benefit of the poor persons therein the interest arising therefrom to be divided annually among the said poor persons, in equal shares, on the 25th day of January for ever.

The Testator died on 3rd April, 1860, and his will was proved in the Oxford District Registry on the 25th of the same month by his brother George Collison of London, Gentleman, and Rev. George Morley, Vicar of Newport Pagnell, the executors therein named.

On 26th February, 1861, the executors transferred to George Cooch, William Price, William Powell, and John Compton Maul, the then Governors of the Hospital, the sum of £1845 Stock New Three per cent. annuities, being the above legacies less £10 per cent. for legacy duty.

The stock was subsequently, on 17th December, 1861, transferred to the Official Trustee.

The same Testator likewise bequeathed to the Vicar and Churchwardens various sums of money amounting to £1250, which in 1868 were represented by £1125 New £3 per cents. (the difference being absorbed by duty), and produced an annual income of £33 15s. 0d. £16 7s. 6d. of this was applied for educational purposes, £8 8s. 9d. was paid to the Organist, and £8 8s. 9d. distributed in money—the stock itself being in the name of the Official Trustee. The will directed that the interest on £250 should be devoted towards the support of the National School; on £250 to the salary of the organist; on £250 for the poor in the feoffee houses on 25th January, yearly; and on £500 in benefitting Sunday School children

by providing suitable uniform headdresses for the poor female children who regularly attended the Parish Church in order that they might appear neat and clean on Sunday. The method of application of the income of the last named sum has been lately altered.

Mr. Collison also left £250 to the Trustees of Revis' Charity, the income of which was to be applied by them yearly, on 25th January, for the benefit of the poor in the Revis Almshouses.

This sum reduced, owing to duty, to £225 is invested in Consols and stands in the name of the Official Trustee.

CURTIS' CHARITY.

By a deed of gift, dated 26th July, 1748, and made between Mary Curtis of Newport Pagnell, sister and heir at law of Gilbert Curtis, late of Newport Pagnell, Salesman, deceased, of the one part, and James Leverett, Whitesmith, and Thomas Smith, Cordwainer, of Newport Pagnell, John Palmer, Draper, Squire Palmer, Currier, and Joseph Palmer, Cutler, all of Olney, and Thomas Litchfield, of Moulsoe, Grazier, of the other part, a cottage in the North End of Newport Pagnell, lately occupied by Gilbert Curtis, and then by Mary Curtis, was conveyed upon trust that it should be used by David Evans, the then Baptist Minister at Newport Pagnell, or his successor, he and they paying all taxes and keeping the premises in good repair.

In 1761 the Rev. William Coles is referred tc as occupying the house and there is a like reference to the Rev. George Foskett in 1814.

In 1840 the house was converted into two.

DARCY'S CHARITY.

By her will, proved in the Prerogative Court on the 3rd July, 1699,[1] Elizabeth Darcy, wife of William Darcy of Newport Pagnell, devised to Thomas Pomfrett and Richard Perrott and their heirs two closes of pasture land situate in Tickford Fields commonly called the Conny grey Closes upon trust to convey so much of the said lands amounting to the sum of £5 4s. od. per annum, clear of all charges, unto trustees, to the use of the poor people, inhabitants of the parish of Newport Pagnell for ever, to be distributed by 2s. per week in bread, in such manner as the trustees should judge most convenient.

1 So in Commissioners' Report, but evidently it must have been proved earlier.

The testatrix predeceased her husband who refused to assent to the will. In the course of litigation which ensued, one John Dower, of Whitechapel, put in a claim to the lands, and eventually it was agreed that he should have the premises for his life and should convey them to trustees. By Indentures of Lease and Release of 23rd and 24th February, 1697, therefore, the premises were conveyed by Dower to Richard Perrott, John Colebeck and Thomas Pomfrett their heirs and assigns, and by an Indenture of Feoffment of 10th October, 1700, the Closes were conveyed by them to Trustees upon trust to permit Dower and his assigns, during his life, to receive the rents of same, and after his decease out of the rents to pay the yearly sum of £5 4s. 0d. without any deduction, to be paid weekly and every week, by 2s. the week, unto the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of Newport Pagnell for the providing 24 penny wheaten loaves to be by them distributed, by and with the direction of the trustees, on every Sunday to so many poor people inhabitants of Newport Pagnell (not residing within or receiving any benefit from the hospital) as should come to the parish church, to hear and reverently attend the divine service there celebrated before the First Lesson ended; such of the poor householders that should diligently and devoutly attend the divine services and sermon there performed, who should not receive any parish collection or allowance from the parish officers there, being always preferred and first served. The deed further provided that when six only of the feoffees were living the six survivors, with the then constables, churchwardens, and overseers, and such of the inhabitants of Newport Pagnell, as upon public notice given in the church immediately after divine service and sermon ended, should meet thereupon, or the major part of them, should elect six others, being members of the Church of England, and of good and honest reputation, and freeholders, and residing within the parish, and that the premises should be duly assured to the six persons so elected with the six surviving feoffees.

By the Tickford Field Enclosure award of 11th May, 1808, the Trustees were, in exchange for an ancient enclosure called Wadsworth's Close, allotted 7a. or. 23p. in the Mill Field, bounded on the North and East by land allotted to Queen Anne's Hospital; on part of the South by Moulsoe Parish, and on the remainder of the South and on the West by land of the Town Feoffees.

In 1813 the land was let for £30 per annum, but the amount was

reduced to £25 in 1816. In 1825 and 1832 the Trustees had to distrain. At Michaelmas in the last named year, the land was let to a new tenant for £15 per annum.

In 1833 it was stated that the monies from time to time received had been laid out by the Trustees in the purchase of bread made into threepenny loaves, which had been distributed every Sunday amongst poor persons who attended the church, in equal shares.

It did not then appear that there had been any appointment of Trustees subsequent to those appointed by the deed of 1700, and it was not known who was the surviving trustee thereby appointed.

The land is now let at £10 per annum, and the present trustees are Rev. C. M. Ottley and Messrs. F. Allfrey, G. W. Price, F. J. Taylor, C. Terry, R. Wadhams and J. R. Wilmer.

EAGLESTONE'S CHARITY.

By his will, dated 28th October, 1800, Thomas Eaglestone, formerly of Wolverton, but then of Newport Pagnell, Gentleman, (subject to certain life interests) devised his tenement in High Street, Newport Pagnell, with the room over the brewhouse, the use of brewhouse and coal-house, and certain other rights unto the Trustees of the Baptist Meeting House, in trust, to permit the Minister to have the use and occupation thereof without paying any rent or other acknowledgment for the same, except taxes and expenses of keeping the same in repair.

Mr. Eaglestone also gave £800 to the Trustees of the Meeting, upon trust to use the income for the use and benefit of the Minister, but empowered them to use part of the income to keep the house in repair if the Minister did not.

He died in the same year, and a tablet to his memory is fixed to the wall of the Baptist Chapel. The inscription is as follows:—

"To the Memory of Thos. Eaglestone. A Generous benefactor to the religious society meeting in this place who died December 30, 1800. Aged 90 Years."

There are also tablets referring to the deaths of Hannah Eaglestone, wife of Thomas, who died on 19th June, 1782, and of Holland Eaglestone, who died 22nd December, 1810.

GOODMAN'S CHARITY.

Jane Goodman by her will, the date of which is unknown, bequeathed to the Revd. John Sharp, afterwards Archbishop of

York, £300 to be disposed of by him to such charitable uses as he should think fit.

It appears that Mr. Sharp, whilst Dean of Norwich, left £80 of this money in the hands of Roger Chapman, to lay out the same in such manner and to such uses as the Right Honourable Daniel Earl of Nottingham and the said Roger Chapman should think most convenient; and they by their deed dated 1st December, 1691, directed that the £80 should be laid out in the purchase of lands and tenements as the Master and Governors of Queen Ann's Hospital should direct, and that the same should be conveyed to the said Governors and Master, and their heirs and successors, and the rents and profits of the same paid to such minister's widow or widows of Newport Pagnell as the said Master and Governors and their successors should think fit; and in case at any time there should be no such widow that they should think wanted the same, that then the said rents and profits should be laid out for putting forth of a poor child or children of Newport Pagnell apprentices, at such time and in such manner as the said Masters and Governors should direct, the children (if any in want) of such minister or ministers being first preferred; and that a book of accounts thereof should be kept, with the writings concerning the same, in the chest of the said Hospital.

The foregoing is taken from the recitals in an Indenture of Release dated 15th April, 1692, made between Anthony Chapman of the one part and the Revd. Thomas Banks, D.D., Vicar of Newport Pagnell and Master of Queen Ann's Hospital, and Roger Chapman, Samuel Christie, William Hartley and Richard Kilpin all of Newport Pagnell and Governors of the said Hospital of the other part, and whereby Anthony Chapman in consideration of £93 10s. 0d. conveyed unto the said Master and Governors their heirs and successors a close of pasture land in Little Crawley in the parish of North Crawley called Jarvis, containing by estimation 4a. 1r. and then divided into three parts, upon the trusts of the above mentioned deed of 1691.

In 1833 the close was let to John Welsh for three years from 6th April, 1833, at a rent of £7 for the first year and £8 for each of the last two.

The rent was then received by the Master and Governors and duly paid to the widow of a late Vicar.

The close is still known as Jarvis Close, and is let to Mr. John

Coales at an annual rent of £6. The moneys received are at the present time applied for apprenticeship purposes.

HIGGINS' CHARITY.

By her will, dated the 12th February, 1803, Amelia Ann Higgins, of Finsbury Square in the Parish of Saint Luke Old Street in the County of Middlesex, Widow, directed such an amount of money to be laid out in the purchase of Stocks or Funds as would by the interest or dividends thereof produce a clear yearly sum of £25. The Testatrix further directed that £20 of such sum should be laid out in purchasing and providing a quantity of bread and coals which were to be given and distributed yearly for ever, one moiety of such bread and coals on Christmas Day and the other moiety on each New Year's Day, unto and amongst the poor persons of and belonging to the congregation of Protestant Dissenters at Newport Pagnell in such proportion and manner as the Trustees of the Fund should think proper, and that £5 the residue of such sum should yearly on New Year's Day for ever be paid unto the Minister officiating for the time being at the Meeting-house of the said congregation.

Mrs. Higgins died on 3rd December, 1834, and her will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 9th February, 1835.

KILPIN'S CHARITY.

Thomas Kilpin, who was buried on 4th April, 1677, and whose will was proved 17th October, 1677, devised unto his second son Richard and his heirs, his house in Newport Pagnell that he then dwelt in, and the shop he bought of Daniel Coney, upon condition that he or his heirs, &c., should pay £2 a year for ever out of the premises, upon the 2nd of February in every year, unto twenty poor families, 2s. a family, which should be nominated by him the said Richard and the Master and Governors of Queen Ann's Hospital and their successors. And he directed that they should choose such of the poorest families in Newport Pagnell as were not beggars, adding that he did not mean to exclude all that received collection but only common beggars.

In 1833 the premises in question, which are situate in High Street, were owned by Robert Rose, who admitted his liability to pay the charge.

The property now consists of the house and shop situate on the north side of the High Street, and Mr. Walter Beaty Bull, of Newport Pagnell, is the owner.

The charge of £2 is paid on the 2nd February annually, and the money is distributed by the Master and Governors of Queen Ann's Hospital, in sums of 2s. each, to twenty poor families, as directed by the donor's will.

KNIBB'S CHARITY.

By his will, dated 22nd July, 1826, and a Codicil thereto, dated 12th August, 1826, George Knibb, of Newport Pagnell, Gentleman, who died on 23rd October, 1826, aged 76, and to whose memory there is a mural tablet in the Church, directed that the interest on a certain residuary sum of money, which in 1868 was represented by £195 2s. 6d. Consols in the hands of the Official Trustee, should, subject for a time to a certain annuity which he gave, be paid to the widows of four respectable tradesmen of Newport Pagnell.

The Charity is administered by the Vicar and Churchwardens. The amount of money intended to have been included in the bequest was considerable, but the gift came to some extent within the Statutes of Mortmain, litigation ensued, and the above comparatively small sum only was eventually available.

LEVERETT'S CHARITY.

James Leverett, of Witney, in the County of Oxford, Gentleman, by his will dated 17th February, 1783, devised unto his kinsman William Leverett, of Newport Pagnell, Whitesmith, his heirs, and assigns all those his messuages, lands and tenements situate within the hamlet of Hayley and parish of Witney, charged with the payment of £300 to the churchwardens and overseers of Newport Pagnell, to be by them placed out at interest, and the interest thereof to be laid out in bread, aud distributed by them amongst the poor on Sunday, weekly, for ever.

The £300 was paid and four per cent. Stock purchased with it. In 1833 the Stocks consisted of £300 Three-and-a-half per cents bringing in an income of £10 10s. 0d. The proceeds were devoted to the purchase of bread.

The Trust fund now consists of £300 consols standing in the name of the Official Trustee.

REVIS'S ALMS HOUSES AND CHARITIES.

By an Indenture of Bargain and Sale, inrolled in the Court of Chancery, dated 3rd May, 1756, and made between John Revis of Charing Cross, in the county of Middlesex of the one part, and Richard Lownds and six others (including the vicar of Newport Pagnell) of the other part; after reciting a Lease to the said John Revis for two thousand years, at a pepper-corn rent, dated the 15th May, 1755, of three cottages in Newport Pagnell, fronting the churchyard on the South part thereof, and the site of which contained on the churchyard front or South 104 feet, and on the North side 105½ feet, on the West seventeen feet, and on the East thirty feet; and reciting that the said John Revis had then lately pulled down the said cottages and had erected on the ground whereon the same stood, seven tenements or almshouses for the reception and habitation of four poor single men, and three poor single women, to be all of the Established Church of England and parishioners of the parish of Newport Pagnell, who had not, did or should receive alms of the said parish, and that the said John Revis had placed four men and three women who were within the description aforesaid, to live and reside in the said almshouses during their respective lives, and intended during his life to provide for such number of poor men and women, and their successors in the said almshouses a suitable maintenance and to endow the same almshouses by will, as therein mentioned. It is witnessed, that for the better and more effectual carrying into execution the charitable intentions of the said John Revis, the said John Revis conveyed unto the said parties of the second part the almshouses, ground and other the premises by the said above mentioned lease demised, and the said Indenture of Lease; to hold unto the said parties, laymen their executors administrators and assigns, and unto the said vicar and his successors, vicars of the Parish Church of Newport Pagnell for the time being, for the residue of the term of two thousand years, in trust for the benefit of the poor men and women from time to time placed in or inhabiting the said almshouses, with a proviso that when the trustees should by death be reduced to three, such three survivors should at the request of the vicar of Newport Pagnell, for the time being, assign the premises to themselves and four new trustees, to be appointed as in the will should be directed, and so as often as the said trustees should be reduced to three.

By an Indenture of Bargain and Sale, inrolled in the Court of

Chancery, and dated the 3rd May, 1757, between the same parties as the last mentioned Indenture, and reciting the above facts; it is witnessed, that the said John Revis in order to make a provision as well for the support and future reparation of the said almshouses, as also for a perpetual yearly dole of Bread for the relief of the poor of the said parish of Newport Pagnell, conveyed unto the use of the said parties of the second part their heirs and assigns, all those two messuages with the yard, gardens and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate in Newport Pagnell, opposite the Swan Inn there, upon trust, that they should, out of the rents and profits of the said premises, pay all usual outgoings in respect of the same and retain to themselves all their expenses incurred in executing the trusts, and also expend such sums of money as should from time to time be necessary or expedient to support and maintain the said almshouses in good and tenantable repair, and as to the surplus of the said rents, that the said Trustees should yearly on such days as they should think fit, between Michaelmas and Lady-Day, expend all such surplus money in bread, and distribute such bread amongst such poor and industrious inhabitants of Newport Pagnell, who did not receive alms of the said Parish, as they the said Trustees, together with the Vicar of the said Parish, or the major part of them, should in their judgement think most deserving of such charity. And it is by the said Indenture further witnessed that for securing a perpetual provision for the endowment of the said almshouses and for the maintenance of such poor men and women as were from time to time received therein, the said John Revis conveyed unto and to the use of the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, a messuage situate in Smith End, otherwise Wood End, in the parish of Marston Moretaine, in the County of Bedford; also a dove-house standing in the yard, belonging to the said messuage; also the following land in the said parish, namely: a close of pasture ground called Filler's, otherwise Viller's Close, containing by estimation twenty acres; a close of pasture ground called Hill Close, containing by estimation six acres; a pightle of pasture ground called Hog Pightle, containing by estimation three roods; a pightle of pasture ground called Dovehouse Pightle; a small pightle of pasture ground coutaining by estimation one rood, adjoining to the orchard belonging to the said messuage; a close of pasture, being field ground, containing by estimation five acres and a half, and adjoining to the

said messuage; a close of pasture ground, theretofore belonging to a messuage or tenement then pulled down, containing by estimation four acres, and bounded as therein mentioned; two closes of pasture ground, called Hundred Pound Closes, containing by estimation sixteen acres, adjoining to the said close of four acres; and also all those sixteen acres, by estimation, of arable land, dispersedly lying within the common fields, in a certain terrier thereof, thereunder written, particularly described, upon trust, out of the rents and profits of the last mentioned premises, to pay all reasonable allowances for taxes and repairs, and all usual outgoings in respect of the same premises, and retain to themselves their expenses sustained in executing the trusts, and yearly to apply and dispose of the surplus of the same rents and profits amongst such poor men and women as for the time being should dwell in the almshouses, towards their clothing, support and maintenance; with a clause for appointment of new Trustees, similar to that contained in the Indenture of 1756, except that it is provided that the vicar of Newport Pagnell for the time being, shall always be one of the Trustees; and that in case the said John Revis gave in his will no directions as to the mode in which new Trustees should be named, they should be nominated by the vicar, churchwardens and overseers and other inhabitants of the said parish, in vestry assembled, or the major part of them.

By a Deed Poll, inrolled in the Court of Chancery, under the hand and seal of the said John Revis, dated 1st May, 1758, and indorsed on the last mentioned Indenture reciting that certain parcels of land and hereditaments in the said Deed Poll particularly described and thereby conveyed were intended to have been included in the said last abstracted Indenture of 1757, but were by mistake omitted, the said John Revis conveyed the said parcels of land and hereditaments consisting of about 12 acres of land, common field measure, in Marston Moretaine, and one acre in the Parish of Wootton, together with all hereditaments whatsoever in these two parishes or in the county of Bedford, purchased by the said John Revis of John Horton and Jane his wife, to the above Trustees, upon the above trusts, and also subject to the same clause for appointment of new Trustees as in the last mentioned Indenture contained.

The same John Revis by his will, dated the 16th December, 1763, in pursuance of the power reserved to him by the said

Indentures, appointed George White, Robert Watson, Vicar of Newport Pagnell, and Robert Chapman to be governors and visitors of his charities, in the room of three of the governors who had died in the lifetime of the said testator, and to be governors &c. with Richard Lownds, M. Knapp, Benjamin Pomfret and John Hirst, the surviving governors; [and for the further augmentation of the same charity he directed that his executors should immediately after his decease out of his Three per cent. Consols, transfer the sum of £1000 to the above named governors, &c., and invest the same in their joint names, upon trust to dispose of the dividends and the rents of the said estates as follows: (that is to say) that the governors, visitors, and managers should continue in and admit seven old poor single men and women of the age of fifty-five years and upwards, of the religion of the Established Church of England and parishioners of Newport Pagnell, who did not receive alms of the said parish, to be inhabitants of and dwell in the said almshouses, and out of the dividends and interest of such stock rents and profits of the said estate yearly for ever pay and allow unto all and everyone of such poor old men and women by weekly payments the sum of three shillings per week for their maintenance and livelihood in the said almshouse so long as such men and women should therein live in a sober, orderly, and decent manner; and also the said governors should out of the said fund or stock provide for each and every one of the said poor men one surtout coat of blue cloth, and for each and every one of the said poor women one black gown of callimanco, yearly, so long as they should live in such almshouses and no longer, and also should yearly out of the said fund provide for the use of the said men and women inhabiting the said almshouses seven chaldron of coals, each chaldron to contain thirty-six bushels, to be delivered unto the said poor men and women respectively as thereinafter mentioned; that is, six bushels of such coals on every 1st October and 1st November, 1st December, 1st January, 1st February, and 1st of March yearly; and he directed that if any of the said poor men and women should misbehave themselves so as to receive a reprimand from the governors or major part of them, and after having once received such reprimand, should a second time commit the like or any other offence meriting a second reprimand, such governors should expel such offender and exclude him or her absolutely from all benefit of the said charity. And the said

governors, &c., should on the death or exclusion of any of such poor persons, within two months, proceed to admit another person in their places, and of the same religion and parish, who did not receive collection from the said parish, and he directed that immediately after the death of any one of the said governors, &c., the survivors of them or the major part should forthwith proceed to the election of a new governor, &c., in the room of such deceased governor, and the testator directed that they should elect a gentleman of good family and fortune, living in or near the said parish of Newport Pagnell, until there should be three at least of such gentlemen in the government of the said charity; and that there should always be three gentlemen of good family and fortune, living in or about the parish of Newport Pagnell, or within ten miles round the same, governors, &c., if such gentlemen could be prevailed on to accept of such government, and after having three such gentlemen in the government of the said charity, the said governors should, for filling up any vacancy which should happen, proceed to elect an honest, substantial inhabitant, tradesman, or farmer of the said parish to be governor, &c., so that there should always be three gentlemen and three inhabitants of Newport Pagnell, together with the vicar, governors, &c., provided that if no such gentleman could possibly be prevailed on to take upon himself the place of a governor, then such vacancies should be filled up with the most substantial and respectable tradesmen and farmers of the said parish; and he directed that the survivors of the said governors should, as soon as any new governors should be chosen, transfer the stock and convey the estate into the joint names of them the said survivors, and him or them the succeeding governor or governors, so as the same should always be vested in the joint names of all the seven governors, and never devolve on the heirs, executors, or administrators of any of them. And it was provided, that the said governors might alter and vary the Government securities of the £1000, but not invest it on mortgage. And the said testator, in further augmentation of the said charity, directed that his executors should, after his decease, out of his Three per cent. Consols, invest the further sum of £350 in the joint names of the said governors, &c., upon trust to apply and dispose of, as well as the rents and profits of the said two messuages in Newport Pagnell, conveyed by the Indenture of Bargain and Sale of 3rd May, 1759, as of the yearly dividends of

the said £350, to the uses following, that is, to lay out and expend the same as well for the keeping in repair the said two messuages and the almshouses, as also the sum of ten shillings weekly, in every year for twenty weeks, in bread, to be distributed on every Sunday morning after divine service, beginning the first Sunday after All Saints' Day to Lady-day, to such poor inhabitants of Newport Pagnell as should be present and attend divine service those days, and did not receive alms or collections from the said parish; and if any surplus should remain, the same should be retained as a fund for the further necessary repairs or rebuilding the said messuages or almshouses when occasion shouldr equire. And the said testator directed that this and the several other charities belonging theretofore to the parish of Newport Pagnell, should be had in perpetual remembrance and be yearly commemorated, and for that purpose he directed that his executors should, immediately after his decease, out of his Three per cent. Consols, transfer the sum of £150 to his said governors, &c., and invest the same in their joint names, upon trust, out of the dividends and yearly produce thereof to make the following payments; that is, that the said governors, &c., should yearly, on the 13th July, meet at Newport Pagnell to hear divine service, and a sermon to be preached by the Vicar thereof for the time being, and then and there settle and audit the accounts of his said charities, and pay yearly £1 1s. for such sermon and reading over the several clauses in his will relating to his said charities, which he desired might be done after the sermon; and he earnestly requested the trustees of the several other charities of the parish to collect the several uses for which any estate or sum of money had been given to the said parish, that the same might also be read over to the congregation; by which means the charitable donations of the several pious benefactors would be kept in perpetual remembrance, and it would be a means to prevent any ill use being made of them; to the parish clerk yearly, at the same time, 5s., and to the sexton of the said parish 2s. 6d.; and after payment of the said several sums of £1 1s. 0d., 5s., and 2s. 6d., the said testator directed that the said governors should yearly, on 13th July, provide a dinner for the entertainment of themselves out of the remainder of the said dividends and produce of the said stock or fund of £150.

The testator died 3rd September, 1765, and there is a tablet to

his memory in the church, the inscription on which is as follows:—

"Sacred to the Memory of Mrs. Eliz. & Ann Revis Daughters of Mr. John Revis, Apothecary, and Sarah, his wife, Ann after a very long and painfull illness, which she bore with a true Christian Patience and Resignation to the Divine Will, exchanged this life for a better, on Wednesday, Jany 8th. 1755, in the 53$^{d.}$ year of her Age. Elizth Died on wednesday Feby 26, 1755, in the 60th Year of her age. Elizth Clark, Daughter of Mr. John Clark, Apothecary and Sarah his Wife, Died Friday Octob^{r} 26, 1750, Aged 13 years & 17 days, And all three lye buried in a Vault in this Porch. This Monument was Erected by Mr. John Revis, of Charing Cross, in the Parish of S$^{t.}$ Martin's in the Fields, Westminster, Linnen Draper, to Testifie the great love and Affection he bore his Sisters and the Sincere regard he had for the other.

"Among whose Remains now lie those of the above worthy John Revis, the last of his Father's Family, who after acquiring a good Fortune with Justice and Honour, and taking care of his Mother's most distant Relations: did in his Life Time Erect Seven Almshouses in this Churchyard, for 4 Men & 3 Women, for ever, and att his death give a generous Endowment to this his Native Town, in Houses, Land & Money to the value of 3700, and who was suddenly translated into a better world."

The tablet was formerly at the East end of the North aisle, but on the erection of the organ chamber was moved to its present position in the South aisle.

On the Inclosure of Marston Moretaine under an Act passed about 1796—97, there were awarded to the Governors, in lieu of the lands in the common fields and other lands, two allotments, situate in Hunger Hill Field, containing respectively 27a. 3r. 29p. and 1a. 2op., and an allotment in Knott's Pieces, containing 6a. 1r., exchanged for Hill Close.

The 5½ acres of field land above mentioned were enclosed, and formed part of the lands in lieu of which the allotments were awarded.

In 1810 a sum of £310 Three per cent. Consols had been purchased by the Governors out of savings of income, and transferred into the names of trustees.

In 1832 the trust property consisted of:—

(1) A house in High Street, let to Mr. William Peck Coales, as

yearly tenant, at a rent of £20.

(2) Another house adjoining the above, and occupied as a banking house by Messrs. Bassett & Grant. The rent, a building lease one, was then £10.

(3) A farmhouse and outbuildings, and about eighty acres of land in Marston Moretaine, let to William Webb, as yearly tenant, at a rent of £80, subject to the tithe, which was £15 per annum, and poor rates at nine shillings in the pound. The land tax was then £7 14s. 4d.

(4) A sum of £1310 Three per cent. Consuls, producing dividends amounting to £39 6s. 0d. Another sum of £350, producing £10 10s. 0d.; and another sum of £150, producing £4 10s. 0d.

(5) The almshouses, containing one room above and one below, having no garden, and then lately railed off from the churchyard.

The funds were duly applied in accordance with the terms of the trust.

In November, 1866, notice was given of intention to sell the two messuages in High Street, then occupied by Thomas Bettle and Messrs. Bassett, for such an amount of £3 per cent. annuities as would produce £30 per annum, and the premises were so sold.

The present endowment of the Charity consists of:—

(1) The seven almshouses adjoining the churchyard, and occupied by four single men and three single women.

(2) The farm at Marston Moretaine, Beds., now known as Wood End Farm, and let in 1893 to Messrs. William Sharpe and Frederick William Sharpe for £80, the tithe and land tax, amounting to £17 13s. 8d., being deductible.

(3) Consols to the amount of £2,725, producing £63 18s. 4d.

The inmates of the almshouses each receive a weekly sum of four shillings, and a supply of coal. They are also benefitted by Collison's Charity.

The present trustees are Rev. C. M. Ottley, and Messrs. Francis Allfrey, H. C. Rogers, F. J. Taylor, and Charles Terry.

SLINGSBY'S CHARITY.

The Parish Registers record the marriage on 15th April, 1638, of "Mark Slingsbie and Susan Rider," and perhaps the next reference to Slingsby is contained in the Royalist Composition

Papers,[1] where it is stated that his delinquency was "that beinge an Attorney att Law hee went into the Late King's quarters in 1643 (to be cured of the Stone as hee saith) for wch hee saith hee was adjudged a delinquent by the Comisioners for advance the 20 of ffebruary 1649 and his goods seized and sold."

On 21st June, 1650, he as "beinge a poore man and farr indebt," petitioned to be allowed to compound, stating that he was possessed in right of his wife "(beinge 50 yeares old) duringe her life of a tenement," and four acres of inclosed ground in Newport Pagnell, of the yearly value of £9. Also of a term in a lease for 15 years then to come of his dwelling-house in Newport Pagnell, of the "yearly vallew above the Rent of 5 li reserved, 10s." Also of a lease for 5 years of a pasture in Stanton Berry, of the "yearly vallew above the rent of 24 li reserved, 20s." The particular of his estate goes on :—

"That the said Mark Slingsbie is indebted to severall psons the some of 160 li principal debt besides interest and all his goods beinge seised and sold and there beinge owing vnto him 20 li. or thereabouts for fees and charges he humbly prayeth that he may have order to collect those despate debts towards his Composic̃on money."

On 23rd July, 1650, his fine was fixed at £30, but on 22nd August, 1650, £15 was paid "in full of 30 li."

Slingsby's name often appears about this time in connection with Newport matters, and Staines states that during repairs to the Church his name was found burnt into one of the old beams, and that he was probably a churchwarden; also that he was a governor of Queen Ann's Hospital.

He was buried on 16th July, 1677, and neither the burial register, which simply records the fact,[2] nor Slingsby's will refer to his being buried, as tradition has it, in a close in Tickford field just off Chicheley Street, where there is, however, stated to be some brickwork about six inches below the surface.

His will was made on 2nd July, 1677, and proved on 1st August in the same year by Susanna Slingsbee, his widow and executrix, in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

It runs thus :—"In the Name of God Amen. I Marke Slingsbee of Newport Pagnell in the County of Bucks Gent. Do make and

1 Series II, vol. 46, p. 447.

2 The entry is :—"1677. Marke Slingsby buried July the 16th."

ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner following ffirst I commit my Soul into the Hands of my Saviour And my Body to the Earth in Hopes of a certain Resurrection Item I give unto Susanna my loving wife her Heirs and Assigns All my Lands Tenements and Hereditaments for ever Item I give unto my said loving Wife all my personal [estate] whatsoever and make her sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament Provided always that if my said Wife Susanna shall not within six months after my decease settle and convey an Annuity of five pounds four Shillings by the Year to be paid out of her Messuage and Closes in Tickford called the ffarm with the Appurtenances or some other Land of that Value upon Roger Chapman Gent Godfrey Wythers Gent William Hartly Apothecary and Richard Kilpin Draper their Heirs and Assigns In Trust nevertheless that the same may pay for four and twenty penny Loaves to be provided by the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of Newport aforesaid (and set upon a Shelf fixed to the piller in the Church at the Back where I usually sit to hear Divine Service) every Lord's Day before the beginning of Morning Service to be by them distributed after the said Morning Service to so many of the poor people of Newport aforesaid as shall come to hear Divine Service before the first Lesson ended And my will and Mind is that such of the Poor People of Queen Ann's Hospital that shall be then at Church shall be served in the first place That then I do make and ordain them the said Roger Chapman Godfrey Withers William Hartley and Richard Kilpin Executors of this my last Will and Testament In Trust to purchase Lands and Tenements to perform the Charitable Use aforesaid And to pay my Legacies in this my Will expressed I give then to my loving wife five Shillings And the Remainder of all my Personal Estate when the Legacies are paid and the Land settled for the Charitable Use aforesaid Item I give unto Rebecka Slingsbee Daughter of my Brother Hezekia Slingsbee deceased ten pounds ... Item I give to Marke ffountaine son of Thomas ffountaine my Sister Alice Daughters Son ten pounds ... Item my Will and mind is that my Wife shall bestow five pounds in Rings upon my Kindred which she shall think fit ... And my Will and Mind is that when my aforesaid Trustees shall come to the Number of two that they two shall convey the said Annuity to two other Trustees that shall be then Governors of Queen Ann's Hospital In Trust as aforesaid ..."

By an Indenture, dated 5th August, 29 Charles II, and made between Susanna Slingsby, Widow, and Thomas Potter, next son and heir of Anthony Potter, deceased, who was son and heir of Anthony Potter, Malster, deceased, of the one part, and Roger Chapman, Gent., Godfrey Withers, Gent., William Hartley, Apothecary, and Richard Kilpin, Draper, of the other part, after reciting the will and that the lands and tenements thereinafter mentioned were theretofore conveyed to Anthony Potter and Richard Perrott, deceased, in trust for the said Susanna Slingsby and her heirs, and that the said Anthony Potter survived, whereby the trust estate vested in his heirs. It is witnessed that the said Susannah Slingsby in performance of the said Will, and the said Thomas Potter, son and heir of the said Anthony Potter, at the request of the said Susanna Slingsby, conveyed unto the said parties thereto of the second part, their heirs and assigns, all that messuage or tenement with the appurtenances situate in Tickford, in the parish of Newport Pagnell, wherein the said Mark Slingsby then lately dwelt, and all orchards, closes, and lands, unto the said messuage belonging, with the appurtenances and all other the hereditaments of the said Susanna Slingsby, in Tickford, and it is provided that if the said Susanna Slingsby, her heirs and assigns, should from time to time weekly upon every Saturday pay unto the said churchwardens and overseers the sum of 2s., without any deduction whatsoever, for the providing of twenty-four penny loaves to be by them distributed to the poor as aforesaid, then the said Susanna Slingsby, her heirs and assigns, should, until default of payment thereof receive the rents and profits of the said premises to her and their own use; but if the said Susanna Slingsby, her heirs and assigns, should make default in the said payment, then it should be lawful for the said Trustees, their heirs and assigns, to enter into the said premises, and the said rents and profits to have for raising the said weekly sum of 2s. to the use aforesaid, as effectually to all intents and purposes as if there had been no proviso contained in the said Indenture; with a covenant from the said Susanna Slingsby to pay the said weekly sum of 2s. at the times aforesaid.

In 1833, the Commissioners found that the rent charge of £5 4s. issued out of a house with the appurtenances in Tickford End, belonging to George Renny, M.D., and Robert Murray Fraser, Esquire, and that the money was received by the churchwardens and laid out by them in the purchase of bread, which was dis-

tributed every Sunday in penny loaves to six poor people of Queen Ann's Hospital, and eighteen other persons who attended divine service.

The gift is thus recorded on a wooden tablet, fixed to the Tower wall of the Church:—

"Mark Slingsby, Gent., of this parish deceased gave two shillings per week for ever to be laid out in bread for the poor of this parish

Come happy ones blest of my Father, come,
Possess the kingdom, your prepared home.
When I was hungry and you did me feed,
You visited my servants in their need:
What's done to mine, I take as done to me,
And endless glory your reward shall be.
Anno Domini 1710."

The Gentleman's Magazine for February, 1821, has the following reference to Slingsby amongst its "Select Poetry":—

"Written on the Grave of Mark Slingsby, at Newport Pagnel. Sept. 3. 1810.

Stranger! with no unholy tread
Pollute this mansion of the dead:
Stranger! whoe'er thou art, draw near,
Here may'st thou shed the sacred tear;
Whate'er thy name, whate'er thy fate,
Thou ow'st a tribute to the great:
If, reckless of our hero's fame,
Thou stand'st unconscious of that claim;
If no ambition fires the blood,
Thou ow'st a tribute to the good;
And here, from all intrusion free,
Pay the sweet meed of Loyalty.
Ask't thou for whom these tears are shed?
Great Slingsby slumbers with the dead. J.T.M."

The date, 1810, is probably a misprint for 1820, and the writer was James Temple Mansel, who composed the lines in his youth, and entirely from an imaginary view of Slingsby's character, as he told Mr. H. Gough, in 1872, speaking to him of the verses as "a splash of ink upon the paper."

The rent charge now issues out of the second field beyond the Union, on the London Road, and is duly applied in the purchase and distribution of bread.

The present Trustees are Messrs. F. Allfrey, W. Bromwich, E. D. Mitchell, R. Wadhams, M. Warren and B. Wilford.

UNDERWOOD'S CHARITY.

William Underwood, by his will, dated 5th July, 1793, bequeathed unto George Cooch and Richard White £200, upon trust to pay the same to the minister and churchwardens of Newport Pagnell; upon trust, that they and their successors should invest the same at interest in their joint names, in the public funds, or in Parliamentary security, and not on real security; and receive the dividends and lay out the same in the purchase of bread, to be by them distributed on the 1st of January in every year, at the Parish Church of Newport Pagnell, amongst such poor inhabitants of the said parish, and in such manner as they, the said minister and churchwardens and their successors, should in their discretion think proper.

In 1833, £321 5s. 8d. Three per cent. Consols stood in the names of the Rev. Charles Kipling, William White, and Edward Cleaver in respect of the Charity; the annual dividends amounting to £9 12s. 8d. were received by the minister and churchwardens, and expended in the purchase of bread, which was made up into half-peck and quartern loaves, and given away in the Church on New Year's Day to poor persons, parishioners of Newport Pagnell, and attending the service of the Established Church, in shares varying according to the size of their families.

The above mentioned amount of Consols is now in the name of the Official Trustee.

WHITE'S AND WALLER'S CHARITIES.

The following is a copy of the tablet in the Parish Church :—

"Mrs. Martha White left 20s. per annum out of a close lying in Dunton Basset in the county of Leicester, 10s. of which are to be given to the vicar yearly for preaching a sermon on Good Friday, 2s. 6d. to the clerk, and 7s. 6d. to fifteen poor persons who shall receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper that day."

Dr. Edmund Waller, described as Doctor of Physic and senior fellow of St. John's College in the University of Cambridge, by his will, proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 8th January, 1745, requested that if he died at Newport he might be

deposited in the family vault in the churchyard, and bequeathed the sum of £40, to be laid out in any manner by his executor so that the interest thereof should be yearly applied by way of augmentation to a benefaction (White's), then given some time ago for preaching a sermon on Good Friday, by the Vicar of Newport Pagnell for the time being.

The Vicar receives £1 annually from the present owner of a close of land at Dunton Basset, preaches the sermon, and duly distributes the amount in the proportions above named.

Nothing, even in 1833, was known as to Dr. Waller's bequest of £40.

WHITTON'S CHARITY.

Edward Whitton, of Northampton, Gentleman,[1] by his will, dated 18th December, 1766, bequeathed £100 to be laid out in the purchase of Government securities, funds or stocks, to be invested, when purchased, in the names of the Vicar of Newport Pagnell and three others, named, and their successors, upon trust, yearly, on the 5th day of January, to lay out the dividends in bread, and distribute the same to such poor persons of the parish of Newport Pagnell, who should not receive any alms or parish collection, as they should think proper; and directed that when the number of Trustees should be reduced by death to two, the survivors should elect two substantial inhabitants of the parish, to make up the number to four, whereof the Vicar of Newport Pagnell for the time being should always be one; and that the survivors should transfer the stock into the names of the survivors and the new Trustees.

In 1833, a sum of £114 12s. 3d. Old South Sea Annuities was standing in the names of the Rev. J. G. Durham, Edmund Goodwin, Geo. Cooch, and Henry Van Hagen, but the first and last named of these were then dead.

The dividends at that time amounted to £3 8s. 8d., and were laid out in the purchase of bread, made into sixpenny loaves, which were distributed on the 5th January to poor persons of the parish; the recipients, notwithstanding the will, being generally also in receipt of parish relief.

The trust funds now consist of £130 2s. 7d. Consols, and the

1. Staines describes him thus.

dividends of £3 11s. 4d. thereon are applied in the purchase of bread, which is distributed on 5th February, annually.

The trustees are Rev. C. M. Ottley, Messrs. F. Allfrey, O. H. Bull, James Boustead, J. Short, F. J. Taylor, and R. Wadhams.

WIDOW'S ACRE.

In the Parliamentary Returns of 1786, an acre of land is stated to have been given by an unknown donor for the use of poor widows of Newport Pagnell, and to be then vested in the overseers, who always sold the annual produce by auction, and that it produced then from £3 10s. 0d. to £5.

There is a reference to this charity in the rolls of the Leet and Court Baron held on the 8th October, 1672, for amongst the orders then made is the following:—

"We likewise order that John Johnson doe give an Account to the present Overseers of this Parish of all moneys he hath received out of the bury Meddow belonging to the poore and how the same hath bin dispoased of this last yeare and to whom hay sold within 40 days upon penalty of forfeiting 40s. to the lord of this mannor We doe order that the said John Johnson shall not for the time to cum sell or dispoase of the same hay without the knowlidg and consent of the present overseers then in being for this parish upon penalty of forfeiting of 40s. to the lord of this mannor."

In 1833 there were about three acres of land, called as above, in Bury Meadow, the limits of which were ascertained by a ditch. The herbage of the field belonged to those who had rights of common in Bury Meadow, but the crop or produce of the land was sold yearly by auction, by the overseers, about the first week in July, and the proceeds given away by them amongst all the widows of the parish who applied for a share on the succeeding New Year's Day.

In 1899 the sale, which is still by auction, was held on 7th July, and produced £3. The proceeds were, with a grant of £2 2s. 6d, made by the town feoffees, distributed among 100 widows, who each received 1s., 2s. being paid the crier, and 6d. carried forward.

PART VIII.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

ANNESLEY FAMILY.

FOR some time prior to the grant of Newport Manor to Sir Francis Annesley the Annesleys had been inhabitants of the town.

Robert Annesley, whose will was dated 29th July, 1553, and proved on the 13th October following, was the first of the family who came from Nottinghamshire to Newport. He styled himself "Baily" of Newport, and refers to his wife, Anne, to his son, George, and his children. On 4th December, 1558, Anne Ansley, of Newport Pagnell, Widow, made her Will, and in it provided as to a lease of a farm, and gave to the six children of her son, George, namely, James, Mathew, Thomas, Robert, Judith, and Ciceleye, 6s. 8d. each. The will was proved 14th February, 1574.

George Annesley married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Dove, of Moulsoe, relict of William Stokes, and was buried at Newport 17th January, 1607.

Francis Annesley was baptised at Newport, 2nd January, 1585. The Dictionary of National Biography states that he was the son of Thomas Annesley, while Burke, in his Peerage, states that Robert, the eldest son of George Annesley, was his father. Burke further states that George Annesley was a naval officer in the time of Elizabeth, and married Beatrice, daughter of John Cornwall, of Moor Park, Herefordshire. Be that as it may, Francis Annesley soon entered on a military career, and was created first a Knight, then a Baronet of Ireland, and on 8th February, 1628, being then Vice-Treasurer and Receiver-

ARTHUR, EARL OF ANGLESEY,
1614—1686.

General of the Revenue, and Principal Secretary of State in Ireland, Charles raised him to the Irish Peerage as Baron Mount Norris of Mount Norris. Later on, by Letters Patent, dated 11th March, 1620, he was created Viscount of Valentia, in the county of Kerry, to hold that title after the death of Sir Henry Power, a kinsman of Annesley's, if Power had no direct heir. When the Earl of Strafford was Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, he not being in accord with the Earl's policy, was committed to prison and sentenced to death on a frivolous charge, which afterwards formed one of the Articles of Strafford's impeachment. Although the death sentence was commuted, he lost his offices and was kept imprisoned for some while. In the time of the Parliament, however, his sentence was declared unjust, and he had one or two offices conferred on him.

In 1642, Sir Henry Power, having died without heirs, he became, in accordance with the grant already mentioned, Viscount Valentia.

In 1646, he was for a time in London, but when not in Ireland he lived at Newport Pagnell. His first wife was Dorothy, daughter of Sir John Phillips, of Picton Castle, Pembrokeshire, who died 3rd May, 1624. He died in 1660, and was buried on the 23rd November of that year in the Church of Thorgamby, Yorkshire.

Arthur, his son, was born in Dublin on 10th July, 1614, and was sent to England in 1624. He took his degree at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1634, and in the same year joined Lincoln's Inn. The statement that he sat in the Parliament at Oxford, in 1643, appears to be erroneous. He was one of the Commissioners sent to Ireland, in 1645, to prevent a union between Ormond and the Scotch forces in Ulster, under Monroe, in which mission he was quite successful. He took an active part in the Restoration, and was on 20th April, 1661, made an English peer, under the title of Lord Annesley, of Newport Pagnell, and Earl of Anglesey. He became a Privy Councillor, Treasurer of the Navy, and afterwards, on 22nd April, 1672, Lord Privy Seal, of which office he was deprived on 9th April, 1682, having incurred displeasure by the publication of certain views of his, some of which were thought to reflect on Charles I. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir James Altham, of Oxey, Herts., and died 26th April, 1686.

He left several children, and Charles II. created his second son, Altham Annesley, Baron Altham of Altham, with remainder to his younger brothers. Altham Annesley enjoyed the title during

his life, but died without issue, and it then devolved on his brother Richard.

James Annesley, Earl of Anglesey, great grandson of Francis, Lord Mount Norris, died on 10th January, 1702, without male issue, leaving Lady Catherine Annesley, who afterwards married William Phipps, Esq., his only child and heiress at law, and two brothers, John, who upon his death became Earl of Anglesey, and Arthur, who also on the death of his brother John, which happened soon afterwards, became Earl of Anglesey.

Arthur, Earl of Anglesey, died on 1st April, 1737, without issue, and thereupon his cousin, Richard, Lord Altham, succeeded to the title and the bulk of the estates.

In 1715, Richard married Ann Prust, but deserted her, and she died without issue in 1741. From 1741 to the date of his death he lived with Juliana Donovan, whom he married, and by her had issue. In 1743 an action was brought against him for the recovery of certain Irish estates by James Annesley, who claimed to be the heir of Arthur, Lord Altham, Richard's elder brother, to whose title Richard succeeded. From the evidence adduced at the trial it appeared that Arthur, Lord Altham, in 1706, married Mary Sheffield, natural daughter of the Duke of Buckingham, and that in 1715 a child, the plaintiff, James, was born, and treated as the legitimate heir till about 1724. In the meantime Lord Altham and his wife separated, and a mistress named Gregory, with whom he lived, alienated his affections from the boy, and persuaded him that the plaintiff was not his son. He was accordingly sent away from his father's house, and kept as far as possible in seclusion. After the death of Arthur, Lord Altham, on 16th November, 1727, his brother Richard kidnapped the plaintiff and sent him to the River Delawar in America, where he was sold as a slave, and did not escape till thirteen years later, when he reached Jamaica, and was sent by Admiral Vernon to England. For the defence, it was alleged that the plaintiff was the son of Joan Landy, the nurse. In the result a verdict was given for the plaintiff, but for lack of funds or otherwise the judgment was not followed up, and James Annesley died in 1761, having been twice married.

Richard, Earl of Anglesey, died on 14th February, 1761, leaving the Countess Juliana, Arthur, his only son and heir, and three daughters him surviving.

Arthur claimed both the English and Irish titles of his father,

The Honble James Annesley Esqr
Parr Sculp.
according to Act of Parliament

and although he succeeded in establishing his claim to the latter, his claim to the former was disallowed, and they became extinct in 1771, as it was not satisfactorily proved that the date of his father's marriage certificate, on which he relied, was 1741 and not 1752. He married first, in 1767, the Honorable Lucy Fortescue Lyttleton, daughter of the Right Honorable George Lord Lyttleton, and by her had issue one son, George, and two daughters, and second, in 1783, Sarah Cavendish, daughter of Sir Henry Cavendish. He was created Earl of Mount Norris in 1793.

It was, as already mentioned, Arthur, Earl Mountnorris, and George, commonly called Viscount Valentia, who by selling the Manor of Newport Pagnell in 1810, to Mr. Hardy, severed the long connection of the Annesley Family with the town.

LEWIS ATTERBURY,

the son of Lewis Atterbury, Rector of Milton Keynes, was born at Caldecot, Newport Pagnell, on 2nd May, 1656, the entry of the fact in the Newport Parish Registers being "Lewis Atterbury son of Lewis borne May ye 2nd." He was educated under Dr. Busby at Westminster School, and sent to Christ Church, Oxford, at the age of eighteen. He was ordained deacon in September, 1679 (being then B.A.), and priest the year following, when also he commenced M.A. In 1683, he officiated as chaplain to Sir William Pritchard, then Lord Mayor of London. In February, 1684, he was instituted rector of Sywell, Northants, which benefice he resigned on the acceptance of other preferments. On 8th July, 1687, he obtained the degrees of Bachelor and Doctor of Civil Law. In 1691, he became lecturer of St. Mary Hill, London. Soon after his marriage he settled at Highgate, where he supplied the pulpit of Rev. David Lathom, who was very old and infirm, and upon his death in June, 1695, was elected by the trustees of Highgate Chapel as their minister. The same year he was nominated one of the six chaplains to the Princess Anne, to preach at Whitehall and St. James, which place he continued to supply after she came to the throne, and during part of the reign of George I. While he resided at Highgate, observing the want by the poor of a good physician and apothecary, he studied physic, and acquiring considerable skill, practised it gratis among his poor neighbours. He was rector of Shepperton in 1707, and of Hornsey, in which parish was Highgate Chapel, in 1719. In 1720 he asked

his brother, the Bishop of Rochester, to appoint him as Archdeacon there, on a vacancy in that office arising, but, although the request was not granted, as the Bishop considered it improper that he should be placed in a post immediately under him, the brothers remained good friends. He died at Bath on 20th October, 1731, whither he had gone owing to a paralytic disorder. By his will, in which he is described as of the parish of St. Pancras, Middlesex, he gave forty of his best practical books in Divinity as his executor should think fit to the Library of Newport Pagnell,[1] and after making bequests of books to other places, also directed that "they that have them shall be obliged to print a catalogue of them and to set them up in a place by themselves." He also gave an annual sum of £10 to a schoolmistress to instruct poor girls at Newport, and made a disposition in favour of the living as mentioned elsewhere. His wife was Penelope, daughter of Mr. John Bedingfield and sister of Sir Robert Bedingfield, Lord Mayor of London in 1707, by whom he had a daughter and three sons, none of whom survived him. She died 1st May, 1723, and his only grand-child, a grand-daughter, in 1732, so that by his will his nephew, Osborn Atterbury, son of the Bishop, became entitled to his fortune. He published some volumes of Sermons and Tracts.

JOHN BROKLE,

a member of the Draper's Company, Sheriff of London with William Mildred in 1425, and in 1433 Lord Mayor of London, was, according to Fuller, a son of William Brokle of Newport Pagnell.

WILLIAM BULL

was born at Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire, and baptised there on 17th December, 1738. He was the son of John and Judith Bull, but was, partially at all events, brought up by his grandfather, Francis Bull. Deciding to enter the ministry, he, in 1759, was admitted to the Daventry Dissenting Academy, and, on the termination of his college career, accepted a call from Newport Independent Church in 1764. Soon after his settlement there he established and carried on a school with considerable success, one of his pupils being Sir John Leech, who became Master of the Rolls. He married Hannah Palmer, a daughter of Thomas

1 These volumes are in the possession of the Vicar.

REV. WILLIAM BULL.

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Palmer, of Bedford, on 7th June, 1768, and soon after his famous acquaintanceship with the Rev. John Newton, of Olney, was formed. In 1782 his intimacy with the poet Cowper may be said to have commenced, and the well-known Mr. Thornton became also a frequent correspondent. The formation of the Academy for Dissenting Ministers, of which he was first principal, in 1782, is referred to elsewhere. On 23rd October, 1800, Thomas Palmer Bull, his only surviving child, was ordained co-pastor with him. His wife died 26th February, 1804. In his earlier years he preached a good deal in various parts of the country, but his health gradually failed, and he died on 23rd of July, 1814. He does not appear to have published any work, but assisted in the revision of an edition of Bogatzky's "Golden Treasury," published by Mr. Thornton, and wrote original papers under the dates January 18th, February 10th and 16th, and December 1st. He also had Cowper's translation of Madame Guion's poems printed in 1801. The accompanying portrait is from a portrait in oils, by Wildman.

THOMAS PALMER BULL

was the only child of William Bull who attained maturity, and was born 15th July, 1773. He was a student of the Newport College, and for many years was connected officially with it, as mentioned elsewhere. He became co-pastor of Newport Independent Church on 23rd October, 1800, and sole pastor from the date of his father's death till he was joined by his son Josiah. He was Chairman of the Congregational Union in 1835. He married Letitia Bateman on 13th October, 1803, the issue of the marriage being three sons, William Bateman (who for many years practised as a solicitor at Newport Pagnell), Thomas (a London physician, whose works entitled "Hints to Mothers" and "Maternal Management of Children in Health and Disease," are well known), and Josiah (pastor of Newport Independent Church, and author of "The Memorials of the Rev. William Bull," "Life of John Newton," and "Newton's Letters.") His wife died on 13th August, 1836. In 1850, when he had been pastor fifty years, a jubilee service was held, and a presentation made to him. He died on 11th March, 1859. He published "One hundred and twenty-nine letters from Newton to Bull," "A brief narrative of the rise and progress of the Independent Church at Newport

Pagnell," and was also concerned with Rev. Thomas Adkins in a work entitled "A Form for the Solemnization of Matrimony." The accompanying portrait is from an engraving, published in July, 1817.

SIR HUGH BURNELL, KT.,[1]

was son and heir of Nicholas Burnell, who owned the manor of Haselbech. He married Joyce, grand-daughter and heir of Sir John Botetourt, Kt., and in 9 Richard II., on performance of homage, had livery of the lands of her inheritance. Being reputed in favour with the king, and one of his evil counsellers, he was, by the influence of the nobility, banished from court. On the king's recovering his power, however, he had a grant of sixpence a day in compensation of his services and losses, to be paid out of the Exchequer during his life. Afterwards he became so popular that, on the deposal of Richard, he was deputed with other lords to receive from the King, then in the Tower, his resignation of the Crown. In 4 Henry V. he entered into articles with Sir Walter Hungerford for the marriage of Margery, one of the daughters of Edward his only son, then dead, with Edmund Hungerford, son of the said Sir Walter, which marriage took place. His wife, Joyce, died 7 Henry IV. without issue, and he died 8 Henry V., and was buried in the Abbey of Hales, Salop, near his wife, Joyce, leaving as his heiresses his grand-daughters, Joyce, the wife of Thomas Erdyngton, junior, Catherine Burnell, and Margery, the wife of Edmund Hungerford, who were all daughters of his son, Edward Burnell, and of the respective ages of 24, 14, and 11 years and upwards. Who the mother of Edward Burnell was is not stated.

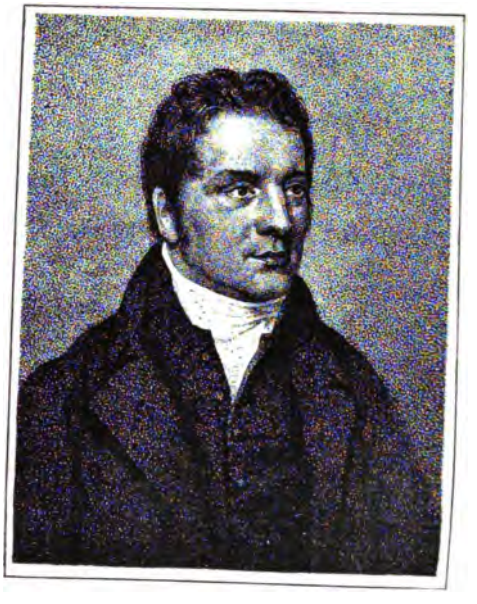
RICHARD CARPENTER,

According to a passage in his "Anabaptist," [2] was born at Newport Pagnell in 1609.[3] He was educated at Eton, and for about three years he was at King's College, Cambridge, but left upon

1 Bridges, vol. ii., p. 36, quoting Dug. Baron, vol. ii., p. 61.

2 The passage is "I was born there ; and born thither by a charitable desire of consociating and comforting my Friends." It follows a sentence referring in no complimentary terms to Gibbs. Newport is not actually mentioned. Nor any date.

3 There were Carpenters at Newport, and an "Anthony Carpenter gent. deceased 23 Nov. 1658." Parish Registers.



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Christmas Eve "to avoid the receiving of the Sacrament the next day," and "was reconciled to the Church of Rome, in London, by an English monk, and by him recommended to a Jesuit, who sent him to the English Colledge at S. Omers in Flanders." There he became disposed to join the Jesuits, and was sent to Valladolid. Thence he appears to have gone to Douay, where his skull was shaved partly so as "to make better roome for a Crown of glory." After being at Paris a time he was by his kinsman, the provinciall of the English Jesuits, sent to Rome, where he received Orders from the Pope's substitute. He returned to England, by the Pope's orders, to make proselytes, but after preaching and labouring so to do for "the space of a year and upwards" he was "reconciled to the faire church of Christ in England," and was presented to the Vicarage of Poling in Sussex, in 1635. He was alternately a Catholic and Protestant thrice subsequently, and at one time professedly of Independent views. [1] In 1647 he held a dispute with John Gibbs, then Vicar of Newport, concerning Paedo baptism, and claimed the victory in a pamphlet entitled "The Anabaptist washt and washt, and shrunk in the washing; or a Scholasticall Discussion of the much-agitated Controversie concerning Infant Baptism; occasioned by a Publike Disputation, before a great Assembly of Ministers and other Persons of worth in the Church of Newport Pagnell, Betwixt Mr. Gibbs Minister there, and the Author, Richd. Carpenter, Independent. Wherein also the Author occasionally declares his judgement concerning the Papists; And afterwards concerning Episcopacy." London, printed by William Hunt. The book is without date, but must have been published about the time of the disputation. In the dedication "To all the zealous Defenders and Abettors of Infant baptism" he says he was "called inwardly and outwardly recalled, agreeably to the mixture and even composition of his first and fundamentall calling: to preach in the Church of Newport Pagnell, before a very numerous Auditory, congealed and consisting of the more solid and sapid part of the Town and Country;" that after the sermon he baptised a child "in the sober performance of which mysterious work, the Minister, unsettled in place, and (it seems) in person professing for Anabaptism, and suddenly rapted

1 While Vicar of Poling he published, in 1642, a book entitled "Experience, Historie, and Divinitie," which was "printed by order of the House of Commons," and from which the foregoing quotations are taken.

with a vertiginous motion," interrupted him. The consequence was the disputation. He is referred to by Pepys, in his Diary, thus:—"10 August, 1662 . . . . After dinner to St. Bride's, and there heard one Carpenter, an old monk, who, they say, hath been a Jesuit priest, and is come over to us; but he preached very well." He was married, and for a time preached at Aylesbury. It is said he died in the communion of the Church of Rome, but at what date is not known. He was living in 1670. He was the author of several works besides those already mentioned, three of them containing his portrait. The portrait reproduced is from the "Experience."

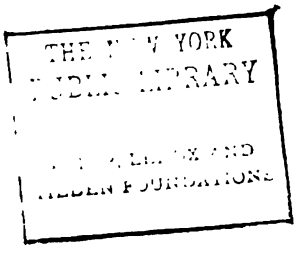
JOHN HARLEY

Was, according to Fuller and Willis, born at Newport Pagnell in 1504. Other writers say he was born in Herefordshire, but there were Harleys who for three generations held lands at Newport in the sixteenth and early part of the seventeenth century. They are referred to in the Newport Survey of 6 James I., their Christian names being John, Richard, and John, so that it may be that they were descendants of John Harley, and that Willis was correct. Harley was educated at Oxford, and elected Fellow of Magdalen College in 1537. He was Master of Magdalen School from 1542 to August, 1548, whence he was taken by John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, afterwards Duke of Northumberland, who made him tutor to his children and obtained for him a prebend in the church of Worcester in 1550, where, being settled, he had the Rectory of Upton-upon-Severn and the Vicarage of Kidderminster bestowed upon him. The Earl also recommended him to King Edward, who appointed him one of his Chaplains and made him Bishop of Hereford 26th May, 1553. He seems to have owed his preferment to his decidedly anti-papal views, and it is not, therefore, surprising that on the accession of Mary he was deprived of his Bishopric on 19th March, 1554, in the first year of her reign, for having married during the preceding year, and for refusing to go to Mass and perform the Catholic service. On his deprivation he wandered about the country and died in great distress in, according to Fuller, 1554, and to others 1558.

LAWRENCE HUMPHREY

Was born at Newport Pagnell in 1527. He was educated at Cambridge, but became later a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford,

RICHARD CARPENTER.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and took his M.A. degree there July, 1552, In September, 1553, he obtained leave from his College to travel abroad and went to Basle and then to Zurich, where he associated with English exiles who had fled for religion's sake. After Mary's death he returned to his College and his fellowship, which had been forfeited for outstaying his leave, was restored. In 1560 he was appointed Queen's professor of Divinity at Oxford, and the year after elected President of his College. In 1562 he took Divinity degrees, and in 1570 was made Dean of Gloucester. In 1580 he was constituted Dean of Winchester, and if he had not, as a result of his residence abroad, become somewhat of a Calvinist, he would probably have been promoted to a Bishopric. Wood says he was "a great and general scholar, an able linguist, a deep divine; and for his excellency of style, exactness of method, and substance of method in his writings, went beyond most of our theologians." He married, at the beginning of Elizabeth's reign one, Joan, the daughter of Andrew Inkforby, of Ipswich, by whom he had seven sons and five daughters. She died 27th August, 1611, aged 74, and was buried in the Chancel of Steeple Barton Church, Oxfordshire. He died on 1st February, 1589, and was buried at the at the upper end of the inner chapel of Magdalen College, a monument to his memory, and another to that of her mother being erected by their eldest daughter Justinia Dormer. He was the author of several works.

JOHN PERROTT

Was the son of Robert and Frances Perrott, and was baptised at Newport Pagnell on 16th July, 1723. His father died 31st March, 1732, and his mother apparently about the same time, leaving him a fortune of about £1500. He was educated at Guilsborough, and when about fifteen years of age was put apprentice to his half brother, at Hempstead, in Hertfordshire. In 1747 he went to London, and began to trade for himself in foreign white lace. In 1752 he was in business at Ludgate Hill, dealing in various articles, particularly linen drapery, and styling himself a merchant. Till 1759 he was very punctual in his payments, and having thus established his credit, he obtained goods to the value of £30,000, which he privately sold through an agent, named Thompson, at under cost price, before the time for payment arrived, and then on 17th January, 1760, called his creditors together at the Half Moon

Tavern, Cheapside, and acquainted them with his inability to meet all their demands. At first the creditors were inclined to deal leniently with him in the bankruptcy proceedings which ensued, although the deficiency was about £17,000, but their suspicions were aroused, and it being found that Thompson had sold goods as above mentioned, and that bank notes, part of the estate, were being concealed, he was brought to trial in September, 1761, convicted, and sentenced to death. He was executed at Smithfield on 11th November following, and up to the last declined to give any information as to his estate to his assignees. He was, it is said, buried at Newport, but there is no entry to that effect in the burial registers. In view, however, of the nature of his death, it is not to be expected that a formal one would be made.

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